GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

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Hundreds Turn Out in Greenbelt For No Kings Nationwide Protest

by Nick Hall NH

A massive crowd gathered in front of the Municipal Building on October 18 at 2 p.m. to protest the actions of the Trump administration. This second No Kings protest was similar to the first No Kings protest in June, which was scheduled for the same day as the U.S. Army parade on President Donald Trump's 79th birthday. This time there were even more attendees.

Protesters brought signs with phrases such as "stop deporting my neighbors," "get ICE out of Greenbelt," "rule of law matters" and "don't dismantle democracy." Other common themes included mocking claims that the protesters were paid to be there, as well as calling out Trump's close friendship with known child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. One protester in an Elvis costume held a sign that read "No kings except for Elvis." There were many other costumes, and a few people even showed up wearing inflatable frog and chicken costumes. Frogs became a nationwide symbol of anti-fascist resistance earlier this month due to a group in Portland, Ore., who have been protesting in front of an ICE facility for the past few weeks while wearing inflatable frog costumes.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Roughly 200 protestors gather along Greenbelt Road at the corner with Southway for a No Kings rally on Saturday, October 18.

At the Municipal Building, a megaphone was passed around to several organizers and residents to lead chants, give safety reminders and explain that the group would be split and head to two locations. Roughly 200 protesters were led by the Greenbelt Honk! Situation band to the Spellman overpass over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and another 200 or so walked to where Greenbelt Road crosses the parkway and passes Southway. Spirits were high as cars honked, people waved and gave thumbs up at the protesters. Unlike the first No Kings protest in Greenbelt, the police did not feel the need to escort the protest or direct traffic.

Later in the day, after the protests, Trump responded with a post on Truth Social. In the AI-generated video, Trump wears a crown in the cockpit of a fighter jet, takes off, then dumps liquid feces over crowds of people protesting in various cities. This is not the first time Trump's administration has depicted him wearing a crown. Last February, months before the first No Kings protest, the official White House account on X (formerly known as Twitter)

See **PROTEST,** page 20

Editorial

Removing the 40% Threshold For Council Election Alarming

Question 1 on the ballot for the upcoming city election is predominantly about ranked choice voting but also removes from the City's Charter the requirement that candidates must win 40 percent of the vote to be elected.

If Question 1 passes, it will take just 12.5 percent of the voters putting a candidate as their first choice to elect them to council on the first round, regardless of how little support the candidate has among the remaining Greenbelt population. Standard ranked choice voting in multi-seat elections requires dividing 100 by the number of seats plus one to determine the minimum threshold necessary to win a seat. This means dividing 100 by Greenbelt's seven city council seats plus one, or dividing 100 by 8, producing a 12.5 percent threshold. (See the October 2 issue for more on this.)

Thus, Question 1 does not just bring in ranked-choice voting; it also radically changes the level of support a candidate needs to get elected.

If the question passes, one can imagine a polarizing candidate who can win the support of 12.5 percent of Greenbelt voters and be elected. Candidates could also run as representatives of special interest groups, appealing greatly to a particular segment and never have the need to garner broad support.

There is a danger that challengers and incumbents alike might seek to distinguish themselves to special interests or single-issue voters rather than the most residents. In fact, candidates presenting themselves as consensus candidates in the Greenbelt cooperative tradition may not stand a chance.

The percentage of votes required to win a city council election in Greenbelt was once 50 percent. It was reduced to 40 percent when it was clear that returning all five (at the time) seats outright was difficult and run-off elections abounded. Since the threshold was changed to 40 percent run-off elections became a rare occurrence.

Needing the support of just 12.5 percent of voters, it is likely that seven candidates will be elected with just the first two or three levels of the ranked-choice ballot; in which case, a voter's fourth through seventh votes won't make a difference. This is the direct opposite of what many in favor of ranked-choice voting are seeking.

It is truly unfortunate that the mathematical effect of seven council seats within ranked-choice voting reduces the level of support that a candidate needs to get elected to 12.5 percent, and also that the extent of that reduction – from 40 to 12.5 percent – is not spelled out on the ballot.

Though we appreciate the potential of ranked choice voting to possibly return fewer incumbents, in the current, divisive political climate, we find these potential consequences of the prospect of lowering Greenbelt's bar for election to 12.5 percent to be deeply troubling and possibly politically dangerous.

Landon Gets Life Without Parole For Murder of Greenbelt Teacher

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Friday, October 17, 35-year-old Harold Landon III was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after being convicted of first-degree murder in the death of 59-year-old Mariame Toure Sylla, a Greenbelt resident and longtime teacher at Dora Kennedy French Immersion school.

Sylla disappeared during her regular evening walk in Schrom Hills Park on Saturday, July 29, 2023 (see the August 3, 2023, issue). A month-long search ensued, in which police were joined by her school community, who held vigils and canvassed neighborhoods. On September 1, Prince George's County Police Chief Malik Aziz announced remains found in a park in Clinton on August 1 had been identified as Sylla's. Parts of her body had been left there on July 31, two days after she disappeared (see the September 7, 2023, issue). When Landon was charged with her murder, he was already in jail, having been arrested by Greenbelt police on unrelated domestic violence charges.

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Mariame Toure Sylla, 59, was murdered in July 2023.

There's no evidence that Landon knew Sylla, though they both lived close to Schrom Hills Park in 2023. His motive for killing her remains unknown. Her exact cause of death also remains unknown, but was likely strangulation, said the county's deputy state's attorney. Landon pleaded not guilty, and his defense argued he was on drugs at the time

See **TEACHER,** page 14

What Goes On

Monday, October 27
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, October 29
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Zoning Legislation, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Election 2025

Answers to Question 3

The News Review, as it does for every city council election, asked the candidates to respond in writing to questions. Answers are limited to 150 words. If an answer exceeds the limit, the answer is cut off at that point. Responses are published in various orders to avoid favoring candidates. Here are the answers we received to our third question.

Question 3: What particular expertise do you bring to council and in what specific ways would you use it to advance your priorities? Give concrete examples.

Frankie Santos Fritz

I have extensive experience in diverse areas of public policy, labor and housing organizing and community engagement that offer unique perspectives in the crafting of legislation, budgets and implementation and review of new and existing city programs.

I have worked for three years as legislative staffer for the Montgomery County government covering issues of public safety and social housing. I helped draft legislation that prompted a nearly 70 percent reduction in severe housing code violations across Montgomery County.

As a labor organizer I have extensive experience with public sector collective bargaining from both the labor and management perspective. I have organized around tax and land use policy issues including a campaign in Annapolis at the General Assembly for parity between tax assessments for private country clubs and higher assessments for homeowners. I aim to bring more participatory processes to public budget and land use decisions in the future.

Kevin "Coach K" Lockhart

I know the community.

I am the community. Living in Franklin Park as a single dad and coaching the neighborhood kids for the past 15 years has allowed me to engage closely with parents and young adults. I understand their wants and needs because I live with them every day. There's no better person to represent

See **QUESTION 3,** page 11

Letters to the Editor

GHI Blamed Unfairly

This is in response to the letter to the editor in the October 16 issue of the News Review, entitled Recent GHI evictions, in which the writer falsely accuses GHI of initiating an eviction of a "second member." GHI did not, in fact, evict this member.

There are other sad reasons for the situation this member/former member (not sure of their membership status) was found in, and GHI is not to blame. Furthermore, in cases when they do evict someone (a recent eviction has been widely discussed, and the writer blames GHI for not doing everything they can to avoid it), it is only after exhausting all possibilities. Evictions are always tragic, and I am sure GHI would only do it as a last resort.

We are fortunate to have dedicated, highly competent GHI board members, who selflessly give us hours of their time in service to our community. I am grateful for them. Their time and energy must not be wasted defending themselves against libelous accusations. These precious resources must be reserved for valid reasons, the betterment of our co-op.

Barbara Glick
GHI Member

It Took a Village

I give a heart-felt thanks to everyone in the community who helped me find my cat, Chessie. After being missing for five weeks, a kind neighbor spotted her and called me: I was overwhelmed by the support and encouragement that I received. Over 100 people called or texted me to report sightings, children made signs with drawings of Chessie, I met so many neighbors who not only told me that they were searching for her but also knew her name. As time dragged on, folks on Greenbelters urged me not to give up and shared stories of finding pets who were missing for weeks and returned.

Chessie is recovering from her adventures and doing well. I always knew that I lived in a wonderful place, but I was astounded by how many people cared. I cannot express how grateful I feel to this community. I will never forget the kindness that I received. It truly took a village to find a cat.

Linda Bennett

Open Research Road

Of all the consequences of the ridiculous government shutdown, the closing of the Research Road gates to BARC farms is, at best, meaningless.

The closure only highlights the fact that the gates are there at all. Research is a lonely, non-critical road with one gated facility. One has to go back 30 years or so when Research was always open. It changed when some yahoo took a four-wheel drive vehicle through one of the fields there. BARC closed the gates.

I call on council to negotiate with BARC to remove the gates.

Frank Kayser

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

COME HERE OFTEN?

Letters Policy During City Elections

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.

In an election year, the News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Good Fortune

A well-meaning but rather inept angel named Gabriel (Keanu Reeves) meddles in the lives of a struggling gig worker (Aziz Ansari) and a wealthy venture capitalist (Seth Rogen). Said critic Jeannette Catsoulis of the New York Times, "Good Fortune could have appeared a mean-spirited swipe at one-percenters. Yet the cast is so amiable and smoothly in sync, and Ansari's script so buoyantly paced, that the mood favors kumbaya over kill-the-rich."

Roofman

Based on an unbelievable true story, Roofman follows Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), an Army veteran and struggling father who turns to robbing McDonald's restaurants by cutting holes in their roofs, earning him the nickname Roofman. After escaping prison, he secretly lives inside a Toys "R" Us for six months, surviving undetected while planning his next move. But when he falls for Leigh (Kirsten Dunst), a divorced mom drawn to his undeniable charm, his double life begins to unravel, setting off a compelling and suspenseful game of cat and mouse as his past closes in. "Roofman is a delightfully entertaining film that charts the stranger-than-fiction true story of a convicted criminal, played by an endlessly likeable Channing Tatum, in an appropriately humorous but also unexpectedly emotional storytelling style," said critic Jack Martin of Film Feeder.

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

Linus waits in the pumpkin patch for the elusive Halloween symbol to appear.

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM: general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
OCTOBER 24th - 30th

Good Fortune (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (98 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 3:30 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:50 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:45 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 7:45 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM, 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

Roofman (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (126 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:30 PM, 8:15 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Wild Rumpus
(Free Short Films Screening)
It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown (1966) and Skeleton Dance (1929)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. around 5:45 PM or whenever the Wild Rumpus celebration ends in Roosevelt Center

The Shining - Film in Focus
Matinee (R) (1980) (143 mins)
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 1:00 PM

Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, October 24, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14464701.

Wednesday, October 29, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14464507.

Thursday, October 30, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14464242.

Astronomical Society Meets October 30

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will meet Thursday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. ASG member Julia Lasher, a historian and mathematician, will give a presentation on Mayan astronomy. The meeting is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Greenbelt Chess Club Meets Tuesday

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, October 28 from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the Youth Center. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to our mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. For questions, contact greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Place Fruit Orders Soon

This is the last week to purchase fruit from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Instrumental Music Department. The deadline to order online is November 2. The delivery date to ERHS for pre-orders is November 21, but the order can also be shipped directly to your door by taking advantage of the UPS option on the website. To place an order, see the ad posted in the Greenbelt News Review of October 30, or email cullen.waller@pgcps.org or visit freshfruitorder.org/ERHSMusic.

Free Piano Recital In College Park

On Friday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m., join pianist Steffin Johnson on a journey through works by Scarlatti, Prokofiev, Ravel, Debussy and Liszt in a free concert. Listen to dance-like music from different eras, culminating in (possibly) the spookiest dance ever written. Attendance is free, at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. Sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange. For more information, visit cpae.org.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

The Wild Rumpus

Join the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program for a free Halloween costume party for kids and kids at heart. The Wild Rumpus takes place on Friday, October 24 starting at 4:30 p.m. Enjoy circus performers on the plaza, trick-or-treating with the Roosevelt Center merchants and films at the Greenbelt Cinema at 5:45 p.m. – It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, plus bonus shorts. All ages welcome. Wear your Halloween or cosplay costume, or other fancy dress. No gore or violent imagery. To learn the steps to participate in a community dance number go to bit.ly/4nNWG9T. The rain date is Monday, October 27.

Emancipation Day Programs Nov. 1, 8

To celebrate Emancipation Day, the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee invites Greenbelt residents to hear the Prince George's County Choral Society in concert and the poetry of Kaylee Joge, the 2025 Prince George's County Youth Poet Laureate on Saturday, November 1 at 2 p.m. in the gym of the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Then on Saturday, November 8, the Sankofa Mobile History Museum will feature interactive historical stories for youth and families at the Greenbelt Library parking lot from 9 a.m. to noon.

All programs are free and sponsored by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, the Greenbelt Recreation Department, RUAK and the Greenbelt Museum.

For more information, email blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com.

CCI Health Services Offers Free Flu Shots

Join CCI Health Services, a community health center dedicated to improving health outcomes, for Boo to the Flu on Saturday, October 25 from 3 to 6 p.m. for a trunk-or-treat spooktacular event. Get a free flu vaccine inside the Ora Glen health center and visit the decorated trunks outside for sweet treats. Don't forget to come dressed in a favorite costume. The best costume will win a prize. This event is open to everyone. It is not necessary to be a CCI patient to attend or to receive a free flu shot.

Scam Protection Info Provided on Two Dates

The Public Safety Advisory Committee is offering two sessions on scam protection. They will host meetings on Tuesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom and Thursday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 114, with speakers from AARP Maryland and the Greenbelt Police Department to discuss how people can protect themselves against scams and what to do if they fall for the scams.

The City of Greenbelt will provide information on the Zoom link on the city calendar at greenbeltmd.gov. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Public Art Mosaic Workshop Tuesday

Join the crew from Empact Art and the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program for a free workshop on Tuesday, October 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 201. Contribute to a colorful mosaic that will adorn the new sculpture Joy – a cartwheeling figure – being constructed for the Braden Athletic Complex. Open to ages 16 and up. Advance sign-up recommended at sugeni.us/eWCH. Walk-ups are also welcome as space and supplies permit. This activity does not involve wet media and is not expected to be messy. For more information about Greenbelt Arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Free Spay/Neuter, Rabies Shots for Pets

Greenbelt residents are eligible for a free spay/neuter procedure and a rabies shot for their pet, through a Maryland Department of Agriculture grant until December 31. Control pet overpopulation and keep pets healthier at no cost.

To apply, contact Greenbelt Animal Services at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-474-6124. Don't wait and miss out at the end of the year during the busy holidays – make an appointment now.

Let's have no unwanted puppies or kittens born in Greenbelt next year, or any year. There are already cats, kittens and dogs and probably puppies (in the future) at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter waiting for good homes.

Greenbelt Park Campfires Suspended

The Saturday campfires at Greenbelt Park do not take place during the federal government shutdown. The campground is open, however, as are park trails (except for a portion of the Perimeter Trail) and the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Golden Age Club Meets Wednesday

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

The final October meeting:

October 29, Stephen Sciannella on Estate Planning. Sciannella is a financial advisor with Edward Jones. There will be light refreshments.

A Night of Magic And Mystery at GAC

It is said that a key ingredient in magic is distraction. Want some distraction from recent current events? On Friday, October 24 at 8 p.m., Greenbelt Arts Center is providing an opportunity to do just that in A Night of Magic and Mystery, performed by Christopher DePamphilis, and he is throwing in the mystery at no extra charge.

His unique blend of masterful sleight-of-hand and engaging stage presence will leave you questioning what's possible. The magic and mystery will be found with a magician who doesn't just perform effects but creates an unforgettable experience that will challenge your perception of reality.

For an evening of magic unlike any other, get some distraction with DePamphilis in his all-ages and captivating one-man, one-night show that includes his Compendium of Curiosities.

Tickets are required. For more information visit greenbeltartscenter.org.

Meeting Saturday On Data Centers

The Prince George's County Sierra Club invites the public to attend the upcoming Qualified Data Centers community meeting on Saturday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover.

Trunk or Treat With Greenbelt Police

Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) will hold their annual Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the rear of Beltway Plaza (behind Target/AMC).

Trunk or Treat is a fun community event where the trunks of police vehicles are decorated for Halloween to create a safe and festive environment for children and families to trick or treat for candy. This year, GPD is partnering with Franklin Park, Mission BBQ and the Fire Department for an even more entertaining evening.

Photography Club Is Forming

Peter Teuben and Rex Wingerter propose forming a Greenbelt Photography Club, with an inaugural meeting on Wednesday, October 29 at 7 p.m. in the New Deal Café. They will discuss what interests members have, from beginners and beyond. Apart from a regular meetup, there may be photowalking, exhibitions and learning how to edit and organize photos. Also, what is good gear, covering the whole spectrum from phone cameras to digital (SLR) cameras. If unable to attend the first meeting, email teuben@gmail.com and include your email address to receive a notice about the second meeting planned for early December.

ERHS Offers Free Fall Concert

The school year is well underway at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) and to welcome the fall season, the music department invites everyone to join them for a free fall concert, held in the school's auditorium on Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m. The concert will feature music by the ERHS Band and Choir.

Keep up with ERHS music happenings on Instagram at erhs_bands & raiders_rhapsody.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 10/23	FRI 10/24	SAT 10/25	SUN 10/26
N0 FRENCH CONVERSATION CAFE CLOSED FROM 5 - 10pm FOR PRIVATE EVENT	WILD RUMPUS, 4:30-6:30pm Magical Mystery Four 8 - 11pm All-female Beatles tribute band.	NDC JAZZ JAM, 2 - 5pm Mama Moon & the Rump Shakers 8 - 11pm Blues fusion group from DC that brings a unique creativity to blues	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12noon Valeria Stewart W/ Grey Jacks 6 - 8pm Two songwriters, One night.

MON 10/27	TUES 10/28	WED 10/29	TH 10/30	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE WITH MIKE SCOTT 7 - 9:30pm	Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 6:30 - 9:30pm Sign-ups at 6p Bring Your Talent!	Lynn Hollyfield 7 - 9pm Singer-songwriter with a "feel-good, timeless vibe"	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm The Gold Ponies 7 - 9pm Baltimore based acoustic trio	DON'T FORGET TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS! That's the only way we pay them and we want them back!

*Join NDC! Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Eric Dickerson

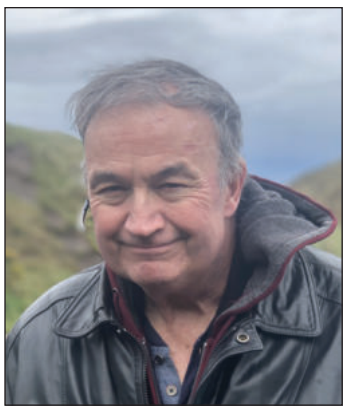


PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Eric Dickerson

Eric Charles Dickerson, a 33-year resident of Greenbelt, died peacefully on October 18, 2025, surrounded by his close family. He was born June 3, 1958, in Dallas, Texas, to Norine and Norman Dickerson.

Eric's family moved to Long Island, N.Y., when he was 10 years old, and later moved to Severna Park, Md., when he was in high school. He graduated from Severna Park High School and the University of Maryland Clark School of Engineering, where he earned his B.S. in electrical engineering. Eric worked as an electrical engineer for the U.S. Navy, first as a contractor for three years with Newport News Shipbuilding, and then for 37 years as a federal employee with Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in Crystal City and at the Washington Navy Yard where he worked on numerous submarine programs.

He strongly believed in loyalty to his family, his country and God. As a proud and active father, he became a stroke-and-turn judge when his son Norman competed on swim teams and attended Jude's cross-country meets, George's baseball games and countless music performances for all three of his children.

Eric was into physical fitness his whole life with a stack of gym membership cards spanning five decades for the YMCA and the Navy and other local gyms. He earned his black belt in Isshinryu karate in 1989 and taught karate at the University of Maryland until 1993. He also earned his SCUBA diving certification in 1991. Even after he was diagnosed with a terminal illness in the last years of his life, he continued physical therapy to the best extent possible.

Eric had a wide range of talents and interests. He was a prolific reader and loved to study world history. He earned his private pilot's license in 1993, loved to build things in his workshop, was a talented artist, played the piano, learned to weld and studied the Irish language for more than 20 years. He enjoyed traveling to new places, and his favorite trip was when he, his wife and their three children traveled to Ireland in 2023 and toured many sites around the country.

Eric is survived by his wife, Louise, of 33 years and their children, Norman Lucius Dickerson, Jude McClure Dickerson and George Matthew Dickerson; his sister Karen Dickerson; his brother Kirk Dickerson (Majorie); and several loving cousins and friends.

Eric will be most missed for his warmth, smile, laughter, friendship, love, amazing memory and devotion to his family. A private memorial service will be held at a later date to honor his life. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Greenbelt Recreation Department for youth camp scholarships (go to greenbeltmd.gov/526/Charitable-Donations).

PHOTO BY PATTI STACK

Pumpkins, carved and lit, at Roosevelt Center. See more on page 20.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

GCC Donation Drive October 25 and 26

The Greenbelt Community Church will collect clothing, household textiles, small household goods and books on Saturday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, October 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Place soft goods in plastic bags and hard goods in boxes that one person can carry. Books must be boxed separately. Oversized items cannot be accepted.

Donations will be taken to Value Village, which pays the church. The church will use these funds to support the Greenbelt Emergency Fund.

Canned food will also be accepted to be added to the church's ongoing collection for the local food bank, Help By Phone.

The church is located at 1 Hillside Road. Use the driveway at the rear of the building to drop off donations. For questions, email the Greenbelt Community Church at office@greenbeltucc.org.

Our Neighbors

Our condolences to the family and friends of Eric Dickerson, a 33-year resident of Greenbelt and graduate of the University of Maryland Clark School of Engineering, who died October 18. He loved physical fitness, building things, and traveling.

Congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders girls soccer team on their third county championship trophy in four years.

Congratulations to Linda Bennett on finding her cat Chessie.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW
Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636
No special equipment needed

"O brethren! Let deeds, not words, be your adorning."
– Bahá'u'lláh
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Season of Rest

The Bible Says...
The Ten Commandments
#8-You Shall Not Steal
Exodus 20:15
MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.
Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
October 26, 2025, at 3 p.m.
Everyday People
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty
In the spirit of our October theme (People of the Heart), we'll shine some heartfelt light onto diversity, equity, and inclusion – through the prism of the beloved community known as Sly and the Family Stone.
Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
• Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
• Sunday Mass:
◦ Sat vigil 5pm*
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
• Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 27 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda
*** Meetings**
* Approval of Standard Operating Procedure for Advisory Boards and Committees
* Authorzing City Manager to Purchase a Reel Mower
*** Committee Reports**
* Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board Report #26-1 — Greenbelt Recognition Group Recommendation
* Park and Recreation Advisory Board — Report #25-2 — Greenbelt Recognition Group Recommendation
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations
Minutes
- Statement of Record - Closed Session, October 15, 2025
Administrative Reports

LEGISLATION
- Ordinance Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation to the General Fund for Arts Program Support – Maryland State Arts Council FY26 Grant; *- 2nd Reading and Adoption*

OTHER BUSINESS
- Draft FY 2026-2031 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP)
- Council Reports
- Council Activities

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 27-31

Tuesday, October 28 at 3:30pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE,** Greenbelt Community Center Room 114, On the Agenda: Approval of September Meeting Minutes, Discussion on letter to City Council

Wednesday, October 29 at 7:30pm, **WORK SESSION - ZONING LEGISLATION**

Thursday, October 30 at 5:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE
Fall 2025-2026

Week	Location	Holiday
November 3-7	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	
November 10-14	Boxwood	**Veterans Day** November 11
November 17-21	Woodland Hills	
November 24-28	Lakeside	**Thanksgiving** November 27 & 28
December 1-5	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	
December 8-12	Boxwood	
December 15-19	Woodland Hills	
December 22-26	Lakeside	**Christmas** December 25
December 29 - January 2	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	**New Years Day** January 1

ENVISIONING A NEW PARK AT INDIAN CREEK
Thursday, November 6 at 7 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center

The City of Greenbelt is seeking to convert the site along Indian Creek at Branchville Road into a park to provide new recreational amenities for the community.

Join us for an opportunity to share your ideas and hear about potential design strategies and concepts. Your feedback is important and will help our design team in planning a safe, sustainable park that meets the community's needs.

For more information, contact pcd@greenbeltmd.gov or (301) 345-5417.

DISTRICT 4 COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOOD GIVEAWAY
Thursday, November 20, 1-3pm. Greenbelt Community Center

Council member Ingrid Watson has partnered with Greenbelt CARES to hold a community food giveaway. Come to Ground Floor East at the Community Center for a free food box. No resrevations are required. Food boxes will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last.

For more information contact Bria Archie at BAArchie@co.pg.md.us or (301) 952-3094

GREENBELT ELECTION INFORMATION

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION
DATES & DEADLINES: 2025 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

First day to receive papers and file nomination petition	8/18
Last day to file nomination petition (by 5pm)	9/22
Date of drawing for placement on ballot – 7pm	9/22
First Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12pm)	9/26
First day to send out mail-in ballots	10/3
Last day to register to vote (must be received by 4:30pm Upper Marlboro)	10/6
Second Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12pm)	10/24
Early Voting begins .	11/1-11/2
Training session for Election Judges and Clerks	11/3
Election 7am-8pm	11/4
Mail-in ballots must be received by 6pm	11/4
Final Contributions & Expenditures Report (12pm)	11/7
Charter Meeting for swearing-in at 7:30pm	11/10

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION
ANY REGISTERED GREENBELT RESIDENT MAY CHOOSE TO VOTE BY MAIL-IN

VOTING BY MAIL: Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may choose to vote by MAIL-IN BALLOT.

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WILL RECEIVE IN THE MAIL AN APPLICATION TO VOTE BY MAIL-IN BALLOT. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO VOTE BY MAIL, YOU MAY DISREGARD THE APPLICATION. YOU MAY VOTE AT ANY POLLING LOCATION ON ELECTION DAY.

Military service members, their families, and other U.S. citizens abroad who are covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act may also use the Federal Post Card Application (http://www.fvap.gov) to request an absentee ballot for City election.

Applications to receive mail-in ballot must be received by noon on Monday, November 3, 2025. We encourage you to return your application (by mail or in-person) as soon as possible.

Return your executed mail-in ballot by

1) Sending it through the U.S. mail in time to arrive by November 3,

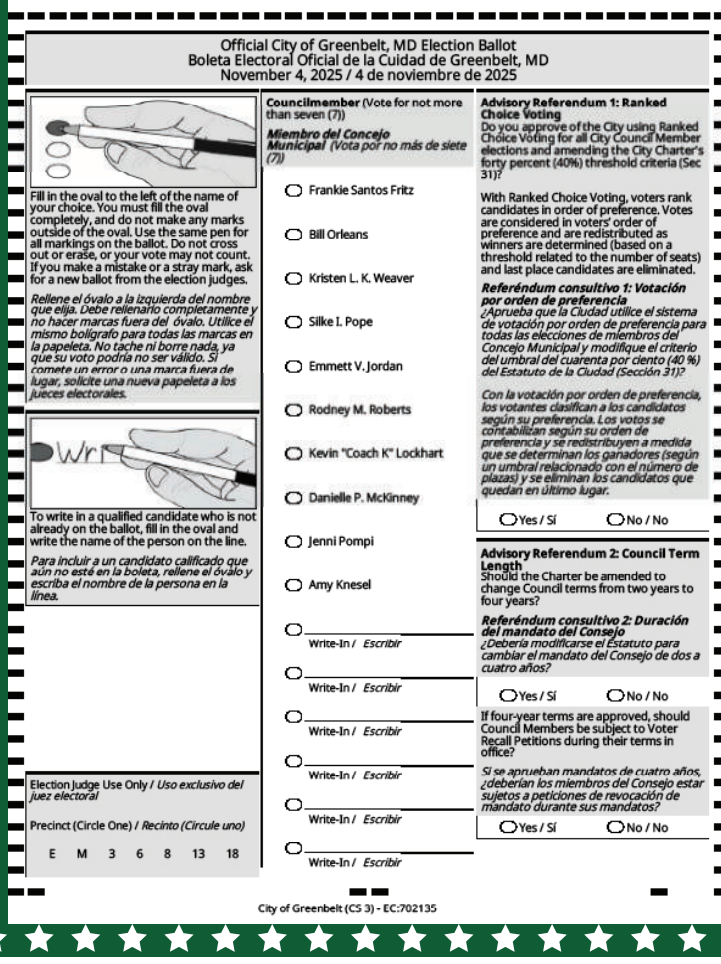
2) Hand-delivering it to the City Clerk's office, or

3) Place it into one of the three drop-box locations. (Police Station, Schrom Hills Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center)

Questions? Call the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000, or send email to banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

SAMPLE 2025 ELECTION BALLOT

To view the sample ballot online, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/election.


Official City of Greenbelt, MD Election Ballot
Boleta Electoral Oficial de la Cuidad de Greenbelt, MD
November 4, 2025 / 4 de noviembre de 2025

Fill in the oval to the left of the name of your choice. You must fill the oval completely, and do not make any marks outside of the oval. Use the same pen for all markings on the ballot. Do not cross out or erase, or your vote may not count. If you make a mistake or a stray mark, ask for a new ballot from the election judges.

Rellene el óvalo a la izquierda del nombre que elija. Debe rellenarlo completamente y no hacer marcas fuera del óvalo. Utilice el mismo bolígrafo para todas las marcas en la papeleta. No tache ni borre nada, ya que su voto podría no ser válido. Si comete un error o una marca fuera de lugar, solicite una nueva papeleta a los jueces electorales.

To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.

Para incluir a un candidato calificado que aún no esté en la boleta, rellene el óvalo y escriba el nombre de la persona en la línea.

Election Judge Use Only / *Uso exclusivo del juez electoral*

Precinct (Circle One) / *Recinto (Circule uno)*

E M 3 6 8 13 18

Councilmember (Vote for not more than seven (7))
Miembro del Concejo Municipal *(Vota por no más de siete (7))*

- Frankie Santos Fritz
- Bill Orleans
- Kristen L. K. Weaver
- Silke I. Pope
- Emmett V. Jordan
- Rodney M. Roberts
- Kevin "Coach K" Lockhart
- Danielle P. McKinney
- Jenni Pompi
- Amy Knesel
- Write-In / *Escribir*
- Write-In / *Escribir*
- Write-In / *Escribir*
- Write-In / *Escribir*
- Write-In / *Escribir*
- Write-In / *Escribir*

Advisory Referendum 1: Ranked Choice Voting
Do you approve of the City using Ranked Choice Voting for all City Council Member elections and amending the City Charter's forty percent (40%) threshold criteria (Sec 31)?

With Ranked Choice Voting, voters rank candidates in order of preference. Votes are considered in voters' order of preference and are redistributed as winners are determined (based on a threshold related to the number of seats) and last place candidates are eliminated.

Referéndum consultivo 1: Votación por orden de preferencia
¿Aprueba que la Ciudad utilice el sistema de votación por orden de preferencia para todas las elecciones de miembros del Concejo Municipal y modifique el criterio del umbral del cuarenta por ciento (40 %) del Estatuto de la Ciudad (Sección 31)?

Con la votación por orden de preferencia, los votantes clasifican a los candidatos según su preferencia. Los votos se contabilizan según su orden de preferencia y se redistribuyen a medida que se determinan los ganadores (según un umbral relacionado con el número de plazas) y se eliminan los candidatos que quedan en último lugar.

Yes / Sí — No / No

Advisory Referendum 2: Council Term Length
Should the Charter be amended to change Council terms from two years to four years?

Referéndum consultivo 2: Duración del mandato del Consejo
¿Debería modificarse el Estatuto para cambiar el mandato del Consejo de dos a cuatro años?

Yes / Sí — No / No

If four-year terms are approved, should Council Members be subject to Voter Recall Petitions during their terms in office?

Si se aprueban mandatos de cuatro años, ¿deberían los miembros del Consejo estar sujetos a peticiones de revocación de mandato durante sus mandatos?

Yes / Sí — No / No

City of Greenbelt (CS 3) - EC:702135

GREENBELT ANIMAL SERVICES REMINDER

As we approach the end of 2025, Greenbelt Animal Services would like to remind you that if you are a resident within the City of Greenbelt, you are eligible to receive a FREE spay/neuter and rabies vaccination through the MDA Grant until December 31, 2025. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to help control the pet population and keep your pet healthier.

If you are interested in applying for the FREE spay/neuter, please contact Greenbelt Animal Services at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call us at 301-474-6124. Don't Delay, Neuter and Spay!

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Charter Review Task Force, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT EMANCIPATION DAY PROGRAM 2025

Saturday, November 1, 2-4pm
Greenbelt Community Center Gym
Performances by The Prince George's County Choral Society and 2025 Youth Poet Laureate Kaylee Joge

Saturday, November 8, 9am-12pm
Greenbelt Library Parking Lot
Sanfoka Mobile History Museum
Come experience time travel and meet an elder of the Piscataway Tribe, an 18th century female entrepreneur, 19th century freedom fighters and much more!

Presented by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, Greenbelt Museum, and Greenbelt Recreation

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.

The Wild Rumpus Friday, October 24, 4:30pm, *Roosevelt Center*
A Halloween costume party for kids and kids at heart. FREE! Enjoy circus performers on the plaza, trick-or-treating with the Roosevelt Center merchants, and films at the Greenbelt Cinema (It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown plus bonus shorts!) All ages welcome! Rain date Monday, 10/27, 4:30pm. (No gore or violent imagery, please.) Participate in a flash mob dance — learn the steps here: bit.ly/4nNWG9T. Volunteer to help at the event: bit.ly/3WGT11C

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **FREE Fall Mosaic Workshop** 10/28, 6-8pm, Greenbelt Community Center. sugeni.us/eWCH
- **FREE Artful Afternoon** 11/2, 1-3pm Greenbelt Community Center, and 11/9, 1:30-2:30pm Springhill Lake Recreation Center sugeni.us/e4Cl
- **Pet Portrait Painting** 11/7 & 14, 6-8pm Greenbelt Community Center bit.ly/43iaEIN
- **Sewing Hands on History** 11/5-26, 1-3pm & 6-8pm Greenbelt Community Center bit.ly/43iaEIN

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS
Thursday, November 13, 10am - 1pm,
6101 Cherrywood Lane

Screenings for Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, and Diabetes at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.
To RSVP Call 240-424-0302

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Equipment Viewing Schedule:

Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 3:30 PM
Available on the following dates:

October 22–24

October 27–31

For any questions or to schedule a viewing, please contact: Sparks@greenbeltmd.gov. View our auctions at https://www.govdeals.com/greenbeltmdpw

Council News

City Council Discusses, Acts On Residents' ICE Concerns

by Deanna Dawson

The first hour of the October 14 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council was dominated by a topic not on the meeting agenda: reports that Greenbelt-based U.S. Park Police are cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Council moved to issue a public statement expressing concern about these activities. Council's discussion and action on items on the formal meeting agenda are covered in a separate story.

Park Police and ICE

Under Petitions and Requests, resident Christine Wilkin spoke on behalf of residents concerned about ICE actions in and near Greenbelt. Reports have been circulating that ICE staff ride along on Park Police patrols of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and have detained some individuals in routine traffic stops; 10 detainees were held temporarily in Greenbelt Park, including one U.S. citizen. Wilkin presented to council a petition signed by 135 residents asking the city to investigate these reports, take appropriate measures to address instances of misconduct and report them to the proper elected officials, issue a public statement addressing these concerns and outlining steps the city is taking to protect residents, alert residents that this is happening and inform residents and businesses of their rights. She also requested that the topic be added to the meeting agenda. Mayor Emmett Jordan said they had referred the reports to U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey. He announced that Legislative District 22 is hosting bystander training for ICE encounters on Friday, October 24 in Hyattsville. Councilmember Jenni Pompi read a personal statement expressing her opposition to federal immigration enforcement actions on the Parkway. Councilmember Kristen Weaver noted that the city has offered Know Your Rights training, made red cards available telling individuals how to exercise their constitutional rights and has taken other proactive steps. She also said the city can advocate for state legislation requiring ICE officers to unmask when they come forward, and that activists can do some things that the city cannot. Jordan added that if residents see an ICE detention taking place they should report it to the Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid (MSMA) or CASA hotlines.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Residents protest the presence of ICE nearby and on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, outside the Municipal Building before last week's council meeting.

Agenda Addition

Council then moved to add the topic to the meeting agenda and continued the discussion. Councilmember Rodney Roberts thought the city should send a letter directly to the Park Police to express concern about their cooperation with ICE, given the longstanding relationship and cooperation of the Park Police with the City of Greenbelt. He said such a letter could help people who are targeted and may have to go to court. Jordan, Weaver, Pompi and Councilmember Amy Knesel – Councilmembers Danielle McKinney and Silke Pope were not present – did not think such a letter was appropriate because the city has no jurisdiction over federal employees and properties. They instead favored issuing a statement expressing concern and doing more of what the city has already been doing to support vulnerable residents. City Manager Josué Salmerón acknowledged that the city has had a great relationship with the Park Police and lamented that they now are involved in activities the city finds objectionable.

Council candidate Bill Orleans encouraged Greenbelt to look into becoming attached to any court cases where appropriate, suggesting that the National League of Cities and Maryland Municipal League, to which the city belongs, may have taken a stand on immigrant issues. Resident Lore Rosenthal said that a letter to the Park Police from the city may not be appropriate, but Ivey should be encouraged to write to them. She also expressed disappointment that the city did not respond to residents who had asked the city to investigate reports of ICE activity.

Salmerón said the city immediately followed up on the request and was able to confirm the Park Police-ICE stops on the Parkway but not the details. Though stops are happening in and near Greenbelt they may not yet involve Greenbelt residents, whose protection is his foremost responsibility. He noted the sensitivity of the issue and the discretion required in his role as an appointed official. Jordan reiterated that he had immediately alerted Ivey to the reports.

Resident Patrice Pascual asked if the Park Police could be asked for the names of the individuals detained. She also wondered if landlords and businesses could be asked if/how they have been affected (i.e., if any of their renters or employees have been removed), and what the tax impacts might be.

Knesel asked if John Mason, the city's economic coordinator, can share information with businesses on their rights with regard to ICE. Salmerón said he will discuss this with Mason, suggesting that the city could convene people, e.g., subject experts and businesses, and facilitate a discussion. He noted that Mason regularly makes business check-ins and Mason and Constituent Services Coordinator Gizelle Alvarez have organized a mixer for Friday focused on Latino businesses.

Wilkin expressed gratitude for the discussion and suggestions. She said advisories regarding ICE activity are needed and would like to see the city connect with businesses to inform them of their rights. Council candidate Frankie Fritz said a public statement is important but that travel advisories are even more so, to let people know ICE activity is occurring nearby. He cited the importance of working with businesses and landlords, and recognizing they may not all be allies: landlords with unlicensed rentals may benefit from undocumented individuals and some employers benefit from workers who can easily be let go without protest. Fritz also recommended working directly with immigrant communities and organizations that support them and encouraging residents across Greenbelt to document what is going on so that one day there can be accountability, saying we cannot become numb to what is happening around us. Resident Michael Hartman urged expanding outreach to hotels and other hospitality venues. He said a letter from the Greenbelt Police to the Park Police would be appropriate and helpful.

Council moved to issue a public statement. Jordan thanked everyone for their thoughts, passion and conviction and said that council stands with them.

Local and State Officers Will Not Enforce Civil Immigration Law

On October 15, Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown released guidance for state and local law enforcement agencies that addresses the application of state law when interacting or partnering with federal law enforcement agencies. The guidance is designed to help law enforcement agencies comply with state laws during a period of increased federal law enforcement activity, said the announcement. The Attorney General made the document available to all Marylanders for informational purposes. Key among the guidance: Maryland officers may not enforce civil immigration laws or assist federal agents in doing so.

"Maryland's law enforcement officers are governed by Maryland law and the communities they serve, regardless of shifting federal priorities," said Brown. "We are providing this guidance to help our officers ensure they are complying with applicable state standards for use of force, civil rights protections and police accountability when they are working with federal agents who may not be bound to the same requirements."

Key provisions of the guidance include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Maryland law establishes statewide standards governing the use of force that Maryland officers generally must heed, even when working with federal agents.

(2) While performing regular police functions, Maryland officers may not enforce civil immigration laws or assist federal agents in enforcing such laws.

(3) Maryland officers must properly use body-worn cameras in accordance with state law and agency policy, identify themselves when making stops and comply with other key state-law requirements that do not govern federal agents.

(4) Unlike federal agents, Maryland officers are subject to civilian oversight in misconduct matters and face substantial exposure to civil liability for violations of state or federal law.

Heeding these considerations will allow Maryland law enforcement agencies and officers to appropriately collaborate lawfully and productively with federal agents, in a manner that promotes public safety, encourages trust and legitimacy, while protecting Maryland officers from legal liability and disciplinary action, said the announcement from the Office of the Attorney General.

This article is drawn from information in a press release from the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

Nonprofit?
Get your message here for $24.30
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

Greenbelt Community Church
25-26 OCTOBER
Donation Drive
DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS
Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road
Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 26, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Also collecting non-perishable food for Help by Phone food pantry
Proceeds go to City of Greenbelt Emergency Fund
Clothing - Shoes - Household Items - Small Appliances - Books - No Furniture or Oversized Items

A NIGHT OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY
FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 8:00 PM
TICKETS:
SCAN ABOVE OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG
Compendium of Curiosities
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
CHRISTOPHER DEPAMPHILIS
GAC

GIVES Volunteer Drivers Feted With a Luncheon and More

by Joan Estenson

The office staff, friendly visitors and many (though never enough) drivers enjoyed a lunch on September 27 planned by the GIVES (Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service) board. Besides food there were speakers, door prizes and a gift for each attendee.

Speakers

VillageRides, a program of the Jewish Council for the Aging, provides financial and training support to GIVES along with three other programs in Prince George's County and 12 in Montgomery County. Cristina Obando-Lemos, the VillageRides program manager, compared some participation numbers from when GIVES first became affiliated with VillageRides in 2020 to the first two quarters of 2025. In 2020 seven drivers gave 85 rides to 17 riders, going 199 miles over 57.25 hours. In the first half of 2025, 746 rides were given by 12 drivers in each quarter, for 34 unique riders in the first quarter and 33 unique riders in the second quarter, going 2,815 miles over 544 hours. Amazing considering all rides – to medical appointments, grocery shopping and other errands – are within 10 miles of Greenbelt and most are in Greenbelt itself.

Betty Timer, a co-founder of GIVES together with Pat Unger, Jean Cook and J Davis, provided a history of GIVES and her participation in it and the Senior Citizens Advisory Council. Timer said there was considerable controversy over whether Center School, the first Greenbelt elementary school, or North End Elementary, added when homes were built for defense workers during World War II, would be retained as a school. In the end, Center School became the Community Center and North End was torn down in order to build the new Greenbelt Elementary. The Community Center offers many activities for seniors, and is the location of the senior lounge (where the GIVES office is located), the senior game room and the meeting room where the Golden Age Club holds its weekly meetings.

Betty Timer, GIVES co-founder, speaks at the luncheon.

From left, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Carol Drees, Carol Shaw and Councilmember Silke Pope attend the GIVES luncheon.

GIVES members Jean Cook, left, and Iona King enjoy a laugh. Cook was a long- time president of the Board.

- Photos by Jamie Rogers-Sites

City Thanks, Support

Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope expressed their thanks to the volunteers. Jordan said, "Thank you for all the things GIVES does. The city can only do so much," and GIVES multiplies the city's contributions. Pope, council liaison to GIVES, said, "You do so much for so many; you are an important part of our community."

The city provides financial assistance to GIVES so that unlike the other 15 VillageRides programs, members pay no dues and service recipients pay no fees.

Gift and Door Prizes

Roosevelt Center vendors were generous with door prizes. Donors were Cedars of Lebanon, Greenbelt Cinema, Greenbelt Barber & Stylist, Generous Joe's and Heavenly Well of Greenbelt. The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center donated two prizes. The board donated six mum plants.

Government Shutdown

Federal Workers Ride Free on MARC Or Commuter Bus During Shutdown

Governor Wes Moore announced on Friday, October 17, that the Maryland Transit Administration will provide free MARC train and Commuter Bus service to federal workers during the ongoing federal government shutdown.

The free service will be provided from now through the remainder of the shutdown, and any individual with a federal ID badge can ride free by showing their badge to the operator.

"Marylanders make up a large share of the federal workforce, so we fully understand the financial strain many of our riders are experiencing," said Maryland Department of Transportation Acting Secretary Samantha J. Biddle. "Free rides on MARC and Commuter Bus ensure that federal workers who are still reporting to the office have one less thing to worry about."

Other state agencies announced government shutdown resources:

Department of Housing and Community Development: Provides information on protections from eviction or foreclosure for furloughed federal employees, housing counseling, legal services, affordable housing units, homelessness prevention resources and energy assistance.

Department of Labor: Helps with eligibility for unemployment insurance for furloughed employees or federal contractors; resources for career navigation; and the Federal Shutdown Loan Program, offers a $700 no-interest loan for "excepted" federal employees working without pay.

Department of Health: Access mental health services and support through the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and Local Behavioral Health authorities.

Department of Human Services: On-site assistance with applications for food, cash and other aid through marylandbenefits.gov, including the Emergency Food Assistance Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Cash Assistance.

For Department of Veterans and Military Families: Resources are available for veterans and active-duty members, including the Veterans Trust Fund and filing assistance for federal benefits.

Other support offered in Maryland includes support in finding a new job through 33 American Job Centers and a specialized Professional Outplacement Assistance Center, including individualized career guidance, resumé workshops, mock interviews, career and skills assessment, effective job search strategies and networking support.

The above article is drawn from a press release from the office of Governor Wes Moore.

Greenbelters Travel

PHOTO BY NICOLE SHYONG

Cape Canaveral, Florida: T-minus 2 hours. Julius Verzosa and Nicole Shyong are looking at news while awaiting a rocket launch at Kennedy Space Center near the famed Vehicle Assembly Building.

Fall Vendor Sale

The Auxiliary of the Glenn Dale Fire Association is having a Vendor Show

Saturday, November 8, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
11900 Glenn Dale Blvd,
Glenn Dale, Maryland
Contact Marie at 301-452-1107

Re-Elect SILKE POPE
TO GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND STABILITY - I will support the growth of Greenbelt's small businesses and explore new tax-based income opportunities for city residents.

GREENBELT COMMUNITY - I will continue to support a wide variety of programs for our seniors, family and youth. Our community thrives when we invest in people - through arts, culture and environmental programs that keep Greenbelt creative, caring and environmentally proactive.

PUBLIC SAFETY - I will keep working to ensure that our Greenbelt Police Department has the resources it needs to stay strong, responsive and community-oriented. Public safety is a shared effort and I will continue urging the county to return the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad to full staffing levels, ensuring our residents receive the protection and emergency response they deserve.

If you can support Silke's campaign, donations can be sent to cash.app at silkepope@outlook.com

I Would Appreciate Your Vote on November 4th

By Authority of C. Backstrom, Treasurer

Greenbelt Cinema Increases Its Inclusive and Educational Programs

by Melissa Sites

Greenbelt Cinema has been working to make its screenings more Sensory Friendly, something it began to explore over the summer. Movie theaters are not an easy environment for everyone. The seat may feel uncomfortable, the room may be too loud, too bright, too dark or the images may change too quickly. "Greenbelt is a place where as a community we care about making space for everyone," said Lauren Rankel, who leads education for Greenbelt Cinema. So, the Cinema used grant money from Greenbelt Community Foundation to offer sensory-friendly screenings of three films from the School's Out series: Parent Trap, Tomorrowland and Mr. Peabody and Sherman. These screenings had dimmed house lights, lower sound and gave viewers the option of moving around or accessing their tablets.

The Cinema now offers sensory support items, which are always available for anyone to check out at the counter. These include sunglasses, earplugs, noise-dampening headphones, three-pound weighted lap pads, silent fidget items and nubbly inflatable "wiggle cushions" that can help people feel more comfortable sitting through a movie.

PHOTO BY LAUREN RANKEL

Students work on a team-building activity, decorating a Summer Youth Workshop 2025 flag. Clockwise from bottom left are Ali Everitt (GATe instructor), Karsyn Joynes, Maren O'Roark, Ezra Valverde and Renny Majano (Greenbelt Cinema intern).

PHOTO BY SHEILA TILERT

Students work on their stop-motion films.

Summer Camp

Another new program the Cinema offered for the first time this summer was a camp for 15 kids aged 9 to 13, who produced three short films during a week-long summer camp in August. After three years of running an eight-week middle school program with Silver Oaks School, Greenbelt Cinema had the experience necessary to run a fully-fledged day camp, in partnership with Greenbelt Access Television (GATe). From 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., kids studied stop-motion animation and worked in teams to write and produce their movies.

Rankel emphasized skills, fun and friendship for the week. She chose stop motion for the camp because "it's well known, and lends itself to so much creativity, and they can make it without appearing in it themselves."

Each movie featured the Cinema's three little birds, "Lights, Camera and Action." Kids worked in small groups to develop theme and story ideas, honing skills like negotiating and compromising because, as Rankel said, "Films are not made by one person working alone." In one team, one kid wanted the film to be about Lady Gaga, and someone else wanted it to be about superheroes. So, "Lady Gaga got kidnapped and the super birds got to rescue her," she said. Students learned how to give and receive constructive feedback in peer review. They practiced public speaking and presenting their work. At the end of the week, students presented their movies to invited guests.

Special Programming

Greenbelt Cinema offers many special programs that demonstrate the value of seeing a film in a community setting, including special speakers, Film in Focus, Cinema Classics, Sunday Scaries, Book vs. Movie and Cult Classics. As a nonprofit, Greenbelt Cinema continually develops programming to serve the community in new ways. Rankel suggested that younger children used to the Storytime on Screen program can try out longer School's Out movies, saying, "Parents are comfortable coming here, and people are supportive. We're here to be in it with other people. It's about the community." Sensory-friendly screenings and sensory-support items are one more way Greenbelt Cinema has made movie-going more accessible to everyone.

To support Greenbelt Cinema, make a donation to the nonprofit at greenbeltcinema.org/donations. With any questions about education programs at Greenbelt Cinema, contact Rankel at Lauren@GreenbeltCinema.org.

Student Musicians Shine In Special Concert at ERHS

by Li'l Dan Celdran

Fifteen talented student musicians from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) delighted an audience of fellow students, families, community members and staff on Friday, October 10 in the school auditorium. Their performance shone with remarkable musical talent, passion and dedication to their craft.

Some students even performed original songs, showcasing their creativity and individuality. Audience members waved their cellphone flashlights in pride, filling the auditorium with school spirit. Dynamic lighting effects and a fog machine added excitement and atmosphere to the show, enhancing the concert experience.

This special event was sponsored by the ERHS Guitar and Recording Technology Program, reflecting the school's ongoing commitment to fostering creativity, self-expression and a love for music among students.

All community members are encouraged to support and attend future performances – their presence helps inspire these young artists and strengthens the connection between the school and the wider Greenbelt community.

Stay tuned – there's more great music coming this spring.

Li'l Dan Celdran is a parent of a junior at ERHS.

Pumpkins at the annual Pumpkin Walk on October 18

- Photos by Jon Gardner

ST. HUGH'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 1st
Sunday, November 2nd
9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Crafts, Jewelry, Toys, Vendors, Door Prizes, Plants, Food, Baked Goods, White Elephant, Glassware and Silent Auction

St. Hugh's Catholic Church
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD 20770

Greenbelters Deliver Comforters To an International Aid Agency

by Kyla Hanington

Some completed comforters waiting for delivery hang on display in the basement of Hyattsville Mennonite Church.

Greenbelters Herb and Vera Reed recently drove to Ephrata, Pa., as part of a group from Hyattsville Mennonite Church (HMC) delivering 91 comforters to Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Materials Resource Center.

On Wednesday mornings, Herb and Vera, along with other members of HMC, meet to make comforters that MCC then ships to people in need. "MCC sends these comforters all over the world to places where there are refugees needing blankets," Herb said. Particularly moving for the Reeds, however, was to arrive at the Materials Resource Center just as a shipping container full of supplies was in its final stages of preparation for shipment to Ukraine. According to the Reeds, the container was full of comforters, various health and school kits and food items. "It felt almost ceremonial," said Vera, of watching the final preparation of the shipping container, which will travel by tractor trailer to the Port of Baltimore, then by ship to Istanbul before its final arrival in Ukraine. "It was emotional."

The comforter group at HMC began in 2023 when member Saundra Plett invited others to join her making comforters for MCC to use as part of their comforter project. The Reeds got involved, Herb said, because "the churches we grew up with all had sewing circles, and one of their projects often was quilts and comforters. It is part of our tradition as Mennonites to do this." Vera added, "Our parents were involved in projects, sending comforters and gathering supplies (to provide aid to those in need worldwide)."

Herb explained that the MCC began in the 1920s as a way for American Mennonites to provide aid for Ukrainian Mennonites suffering during the Russian Civil War, but it now provides food and aid packages for those suffering or displaced around the world. On September 17, the Hyattsville group arrived at the Materials Resource Center and not only delivered the comforters to MCC but also volunteered in some of MCC's many projects. "They make school kits with school supplies in them; health kits; women's and girls' hygiene kits – they sew washable menstrual pads, lined with absorbent fleece and those are in the hygiene kits." The Reeds assembled sewing kits while visiting. All of the kits made by MCC are put

Comforters are arranged in Hyattsville Mennonite Church before the trip to Ephrata, Pa.

- Photos by Herb Reed

in bags made from leftover or recycled fabric, sewn into a bag with a drawstring so that once the items in the kits are gone, "the bag becomes something useful," Vera said. "Everything is recycled," Herb said. "Nothing is wasted."

Of the Wednesday morning comforter group at HMC, Vera said: "It nurtured us, and now I never miss it, I prioritize it. I never plan something like a lunch date the same day." She reflected on the ways in which they are able to do things both to aid the local community, including an asylum seeker whom they support closely, and they support those suffering overseas. The comforters alone have gone to different U.S. states, Malawi, Canada, Ukraine and elsewhere.

"You don't have to be a church to make comforters," Herb said. "A community group could make comforters or could make school kits." He explained that MCC has strict pattern and quality control protocols for each of its projects. To learn more about MCC and its work for displaced people, visit mcc.org.

Elvis himself protests at the No Kings rally outside the Municipal Building on October 18.

Signs from the No Kings rally outside the Municipal Building. See more on page 20.

- Photos by Christine Doran

Council News

Mower, Legislative Priorities Big Topics at Council Meeting

by Deanna Dawson

Beside the ICE concerns discussed at the October 14 Greenbelt City Council meeting (see separate story), several other items were discussed and acted on. Council approved the purchase of a mower and two vehicles for use by Public Works, received an update on EV charging stations, discussed legislative priorities and issued two proclamations.

Resident Requests

Tom Leamond requested that the city provide dedicated space and a part-time staffer for a job search cooperative for residents. The space would give residents access to job postings and other resources and could serve as a point of contact with local employers and a venue for workshops.

Lore Rosenthal reported that Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant in Roosevelt Center is falling into debt as it faces kitchen and HVAC repairs, water in the walls and other unforeseen problems. She and Michael Hartman have brought this to the attention of John Mason, the city's economic coordinator. She hoped a small business loan could help them out as it seems unfair that a new city business has to deal with such hardships on their own.

Hartman and Rosenthal also requested removing purchase of a gas-powered mower from the meeting's consent agenda, as the city has a plan to transition to electric machinery and vehicles, and suggested that electric versions of the mower are available.

Mower for New Field

City Manager Josué Salmerón reported that during the Fall Festival at Schrom Hills Park the ribbon was cut on the newly revamped athletic field, which now is at competition level. The city is already getting requests to use the field from leagues and schools. Councilmember Kristen Weaver expressed concern that the field, with $1M just spent on it, not be used under weather conditions that could degrade it. Salmerón assured her the city would monitor that issue.

The $17.5K mower that the city seeks council authorization to purchase is for use on the Schrom Hills field, and Assistant Public Works Director-Parks Brian Townsend explained the rationale for selecting a gas-powered mower. A competition level field must be kept at a grass height of 0.75 to 1 inch and electric mowers can only cut to 1.5 inch. He said though it doesn't sound like a large difference, it can affect how the ball moves, which is important for a competition-level field. Electric mowers were considered but they all cut no lower than 1.5 inches and were considerably higher in cost.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said a reel-turn mower would be better, saying that is the type used on golf courses. Townsend replied that he had discussed mowers with the field installer (Capitol Sports Fields) who said reel mowers can cost over $60K and recommended the $17.5K mower. Roberts said that most reel mowers are pulled behind a tractor or golf cart rather than being self-propelled. Townsend acknowledged that they didn't investigate pull-behind reel mowers but went with the installer's recommendation. He didn't think a tractor should be used on the new field and said the Public Works golf cart can't pull anything heavy.

Salmerón noted that the city has chosen electric for several recent vehicle purchases. Weaver said that "we have aspirations," but it's not realistic to get electric for everything and "we do the best we can."

The motion to approve purchase of the $17.5K mower passed in a 4 to 1 vote (Councilmembers Danielle McKinney and Silke Pope were not present at the meeting).

Vehicle Purchases

The 2026 budget allocated $182K for vehicle replacement. Townsend noted that two vehicles scheduled for replacement are still in good working order and do not need to be replaced now. Replacement of another vehicle, a 2014 cargo van, was pushed back last year and is now a high priority.

Public Works wants to replace the van with an EV van and a 2012 Ford-150 pickup with a new Ford-250 with lift gate and snow plow. An EV pickup with those options is not available.

Council voted to authorize the city manager to purchase these vehicles at a total cost of $120.5K.

EV Chargers

Salmerón reported that the electric vehicle charging station by the Municipal Building has been removed and will be replaced by four dual-port Level 2 charging stations, which should be operational in three to five weeks. The EV charging stations planned for the Community Center/Library parking lot are nearing permit issuance. A section of road will need to be cut but most work will be underground. Salmerón expected these charging stations to be ready by the end of the year.

Legislative Priorities

Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that it's time to submit the city's legislative priorities to the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA). Standing priorities include expanding city zoning authority, regulating online streaming services to sustain local media and opposing Beltway widening and tolls. Weaver noted that only one priority can be submitted and that expansion of zoning authority has some state resistance, though perhaps the city could request a greater role in permitting. Councilmember Jenni Pompi recalled that a state working group was formed to consider local zoning authority. Salmerón clarified that the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is working to "revolutionize" zoning and permitting, including incorporating artificial intelligence to help expedite the permit process. Roberts expressed concern that M-NCPPC will cut input from the public and said the city needs a lawyer and the will to fight county zoning decisions in court. Jordan said he would like the city manager and planning director to discuss this issue further.

Pompi wanted to see just-cause eviction offered as the city priority, which requires landlords to provide a legally valid reason for an eviction. She noted that most municipalities do not respond to the PGCMA request for priorities so she, as council's representative on PGCMA, could possibly suggest additional priorities at the next meeting, which was to be October 16.

Residents suggested additional priorities to raise: 1) enshrine all-resident voting in the state code (Robert Goldberg-Strassler), and 2) the state data privacy act (Hartman). Hartman said the state data privacy act failed to pass last year but noncitizens joining voter rolls makes voter data privacy more important.

After additional discussion, Weaver moved to advance just-cause eviction as the top priority and to mention these other priorities at the PGCMA meeting. Councilmember Amy Knesel seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Proclamations

Jordan proclaimed October 20 to 24 as Maryland Economic Development Week, sharing the proclamation with Paul Ricketts of Greenbelt Business Alliance and Karen Mulligan of API-Source, a woman-owned apparel decorating and branding business headquartered on Walker Drive.

Jordan also proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, noting that the city displays commemorative purple lights at the Municipal Building and Police Station. Police Chief Richard Bowers accepted the proclamation.

St. Hugh's Bazaar Coming in November

St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 1 and 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be vendors, jewelry, food and baked goods. And, of course, a big Christmas section as well as white elephant items. Come enjoy great buys at 135 Crescent Road. Enter the bazaar from the rear parking lot of the church.

Chamber Music Nov. 1 At the New Deal Café

Members of Greenbelt Community Orchestra will play string quartets and quintets at the New Deal Café on Saturday, November 1 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to come listen to music by Mozart and other classical composers.

The next free concert by the full orchestra will take place on Sunday, November 16 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym.

Visit greenbeltorchestra.org for more information.

GHI Presents Update to Council: Stormwater, Pipes, Parking, More

by Matthew Arbach

On October 6, the Greenbelt City Council met with representatives of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) to discuss concerns and ongoing efforts. Despite some challenges, GHI Board President Stefan Brodd said that, overall, GHI is functioning well. Established in 1952, GHI consists of 1,600 homes and has between 3,000 to 3,500 residents, over an area of 250 acres.

There is currently a vacancy on the GHI Board of Directors (BOD), with nominees being accepted and a decision to be made at the October 16 meeting.

The employment upheaval at the federal level has presented financial difficulties for some GHI members. Brodd has fielded requests to create an emergency fund, similar to what was done during the Covid pandemic.

GHI property values have risen, with there being a first-time occurrence of houses selling for both over $400,000 and $500,000.

Interior Pipe Replacement

GHI has initiated a program to replace all interior pipes in the homes. So far, 100 homes have been addressed, with perhaps up to 200 next year. The goal is to do a full replacement in 8 to 10 years. In addition, there has been an active replacement of water heaters and roofs.

Stormwater Management

The piping system devoted to stormwater management continues to be a pressing issue, with flooding occurring at troubling rates. The city owns the main piping, with GHI responsible for the lateral pipes.

For many years, the city has been pursuing the goal of transferring ownership of the pipes to the county, as it has done in other parts of the city. City Manager Josué Salmerón informed council that staff is working through engineering and legal matters to make this happen. He said that there are upgrades to the system that need to be made before a transfer can occur. Brodd hoped that GHI and the city could work together on this. Salmerón added that the project is very much past due.

Salmerón said that the city does a great deal of pre-storm maintenance and cleaning of the system. Councilmember Rodney Roberts expressed doubts that the county could fulfill those efforts if there were a transfer, saying that county resources could best be used to provide updates. Councilmember Kristen Weaver said that a balance would need to be struck for optimal results. Salmerón added that a tax differential that would prevent residents from being doubly taxed for services would need to be achieved legislatively.

GHI Board Vice President Debbie McKinley stated that there should be an exploration of green solutions to stormwater, as has been successful in many other places.

Cell Reception

GHI, as well as other areas in the city, continues to experience dead spots in cellphone reception. The need for emergency calling is the most urgent concern. Salmerón said that the city has been speaking with T-Mobile about solutions. Mayor Emmett Jordan stressed that collective resident complaints would be the most effective strategy to get this resolved.

Archives

GHI has a need for the proper storage and archiving of its historical records. Brodd said that GHI would prefer the materials go to the Greenbelt Museum, for better access by researchers. He suggested employing a professional archivist. Jordan said that the University of Maryland could be a resource as well as

See **GHI,** page 14

QUESTION 3 continued from page 1

this community than someone who hasn't just read about its issues but has actually experienced them. People talk to me because they know I'm one of them. For example, I organize food giveaways and often get calls from parents, especially single mothers when they're struggling with their child's behavior. I listen, support and advocate for everyone.

Kristen L.K. Weaver

From years as a middle school teacher and now science communicator at Goddard, I bring a strong sense of organization, attention to detail and analytical and data-driven thought processes to everything I do. Only weeks after being elected in 2021, I helped council organize a review of police practices by tracking suggestions during the discussion. My science communication background provides experience in distilling important points, assessing where confusion is occurring, and explaining concepts clearly, skills helpful for community outreach as well as ensuring meetings run smoothly and outcomes and next steps are identified.

Since joining council, I have leaned into areas of passion, making connections beyond Greenbelt by serving on the Sustainable Maryland Certified Executive Committee, as well as the Transportation Planning Board and the National League of Cities' Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee, bringing subject matter knowledge back to the city to improve our environmental and transportation practices locally.

Amy Knesel

Community building has been the throughline of my work long before I joined council. I have a deep understanding of how to connect people with opportunities to contribute – whether that's ideating with Scout groups on how kids can impact our city's function, strengthening partnerships between mutual aid groups or supporting renters and small businesses, co-ops, and nonprofits. I see community as Greenbelt's greatest asset, and I use my experience in outreach and organizing to help residents plug in where they're needed most. On council, that means investing in people-first programs, improving communication between residents and staff and ensuring every voice has a place in shaping our city's future. After nearly two years of service, I now better understand how council functions – and I'm ready to translate those ideas into practical, lasting action for Greenbelt.

Bill Orleans

I suggest no expertise. I know nothing (at least not anything with a certainty not open to suasion, the only constructive form of coercion), save that maybe I have a heightened perception to recognize the pretense common to our species.

Only one thing separates elected council and residents who elect it: council votes on the questions before it, residents do not. Council should conduct the city's business substantively, not superficially, and of course participate in the discussion of any agenda item, but not presume to dominate it. Residents' right and opportunity to engage in the discussion should be recognized and encouraged, more so. Council is not, nor are its individual members, special. The people should be wary of electing anyone to any office who would see themselves as such, and who want it too much. If elected, my first priority would be to ensure greater participation from more engaged residents.

Emmett V. Jordan

As a Greenbelt city councilmember, I bring broad expertise in municipal budgeting, external relations and community development – positioning us to advance Greenbelt's priorities.

Years on council and as mayor sharpened my ability to advocate with state, county and regional leaders, ensuring Greenbelt's interests are heard at every level. My professional experience in nonprofit management has built our city's capacity to secure grants and community development funding.

For instance, my persistent advocacy with council and city managers led to hiring a grants writer, which rapidly increased city revenues and support for local programs. Through my service on the National League of Cities (NLC) board, we secured Bloomberg Philanthropies funding for the Greenbelt Business Alliance directory and joined the NLC Local Infrastructure Hub for additional resources.

I am dedicated to delivering sustainable solutions for our community through strategic partnerships and collaboration. My steadfast commitment and deep local knowledge will guide every decision.

Jenni Pompi

As an editor and former journalist, I bring to council expertise in clarity, collaboration and process discipline that directly supports Greenbelt's priorities. In my day job, I regularly translate complex information into clear, actionable language, which is vital as a councilmember when evaluating legislative policy, budget proposals or public safety initiatives. I also regularly guide experts through problem-solving; a skill I use on council to tackle the economic and safety challenges facing residents.

With roots in journalism and public communications, I know how to engage diverse audiences and earn trust through transparency. I apply that to making council decisions more accessible and understandable to all residents. Whether expanding EV infrastructure, advancing pedestrian safety, strengthening inclusion efforts or mitigating constituent concerns, I act as a translator between staff, experts and constituents – turning plans into action, while keeping Greenbelt's core values of cooperation and equity at the center.

Silke I. Pope

I believe understanding our community's needs is crucial to my success and translating them into practical solutions is my strength. I use my skills to enhance public safety and advocate for improved intra-city transportation such as a circulator bus. With my experience in banking and international business relations, I will ensure responsible financial planning that protects city services while planning for Greenbelt's future. I am looking forward to collaboratively finding new ways to fund our infrastructure projects and other fiscal responsibilities that we must accomplish in the upcoming years. Finding additional tax-based income opportunities will be vital for our community's future. Fiscal restraint is essential to our future successes. My approach is grounded in listening, teamwork and fairness for all. I believe that by working together, we can maintain Greenbelt's unique character while improving the quality of life for all residents today and in the years to come.

Rodney M. Roberts

At age 8, my father, a mapmaker, carpenter and builder, began teaching me construction trades: carpentry, masonry, roofing, plumbing, etc. He said, "it's a sin to waste a good building." I'm also a master mechanic, welder, fabricator, etc. with 50 years' experience on all types of equipment and vehicles. This experience directly informs my decisions on the expenditure of taxpayer dollars, including projects like the Armory.

A lifelong Greenbelt resident, 34 years on council, chair of Committee to Save the Green Belt (CSGB), 37-year provider of Pumpkin Walk hot chocolate and apple cider. I credit Pumpkin Walks, started in 1988 by the CSGB Activities Subcommittee, with passage of the Forest Preserve Ordinance. That personal outreach led to huge resident turnouts at many important council meetings. I hope to use that experience to achieve National Park status for BARC, Goddard, Patuxent Wildlife Refuge and the adjoining forest to benefit future Greenbelters.

Danielle P. McKinney

My career has been devoted to helping people and organizations adapt and thrive in a changing world. As a senior leader in learning and development at Marriott, I focus on preparing people for the jobs of the future – building skills in leadership, service, technology and resilience in an era of rapid change. That experience, spanning both the public and private sectors, includes: managing budgets and complex multi-year projects, overseeing contracts and vendor relationships, analyzing data and facilitating cross-functional teams to

See **QUESTION 3,** page 15

Re-Elect Rodney Roberts

Highlights of Roberts' achievements as a member of City Council:

- Passage of City ordinance creating the Greenbelt Forest Preserve.
- Passage of a community policing program including our first bicycle patrols.
- Lead negotiator in acquiring the Sunrise property in Greenbelt East.
- Secured $648,000 from State Board of Public Works for Sunrise acquisition.
- Acquisition of the Greenbelt Theater.
- Creation of the Community Center Arts Coordinator position.
- Inclusion of Boxwood, Sunrise, and Mandan forest tracts in Forest Preserve.
- Hiring of legal counsel to fight MagLev train.

Roberts' achievements as a citizen:

- While on Council, Roberts' legal suit against the U.S. Treasury Department, using his own funds and donations, forced Treasury to abandon their plans to dump 120,000 gallons of polluted waste-water daily into Beaver Dam Creek.
- Prior to serving on Council, Roberts led efforts to defeat development on what is now the Forest Preserve.

Roberts' goals for the next two years include:

- Keep Council's promise to our First Responders to work with the County and build a City owned fire house on the Armory site.
- Complete the hiker-biker trail from Greenbelt Station community to the Metro.
- Seek National Park status for BARC, NASA, and Patuxent NWR.
- Press State Highway administration for construction of Beltway Noise barriers.
- Use Program Open Space funds for a new Greenbelt West park.
- Fight to make sure all Greenbelt residents can use their constitutional right to free speech without fear of retribution.
- Re-invigorate and expand our Police bicycle patrols and community policing.
- Oppose tax increases to close our multi-million dollar structural deficit.

For more information: 240-375-4947

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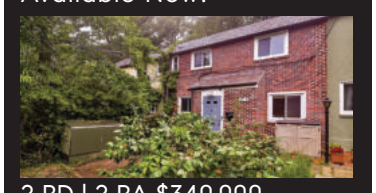


2 BD | 2 BA $340,000

This roomy 2-bedroom brick Greenbelt co-op townhome has been expanded to create a space that could be used as a third bedroom, or a great home office or family room, with a second full bath.

16N Ridge Road

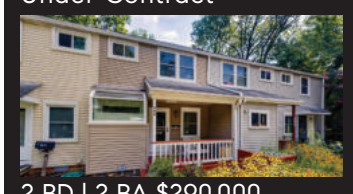
Under Contract

3 BD | 2 BA $256,000

This charmer features a rare first-floor addition with a full bath, perfect as a third bedroom or cozy sitting room, along with fresh updates and great outdoor spaces for morning coffee or evening relaxation.

58C Ridge Road

Under Contract



2 BD | 2 BA $290,000

This charmer has a very smart addition that includes a second full bath. Plus, a kitchen bump-out brings in more light and extra workspace, and other fun architectural details add flair and practicality to this co-op townhome.

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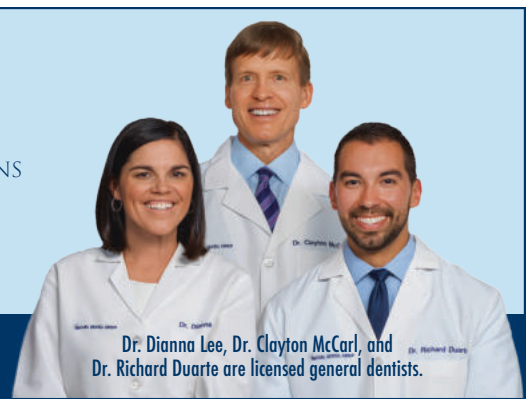

Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

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A Walk to School with Springhill Lake Students, Teachers, Police

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

PHOTO BY ANDREW KARNES

Students, teachers and police stand outside Springhill Lake Elementary after walking to school together.

PHOTO COURTESY SHLES

A police officer leads students on the walk.

Annual Walk to School Day was Wednesday, October 8. It usually takes place on the first Wednesday of October and was designed to encourage students and families to walk and bike to school, to raise awareness of the need for safe routes to school and to build active habits and community. In Greenbelt, Springhill Lake Elementary School is comprised almost entirely of students who walk to school. The Greenbelt News Review joined them as students gathered in the dark with administrators and Greenbelt police officers behind Beltway Plaza.

Classes begin at 7:30 a.m. for these students but they need to make it to school earlier to eat breakfast, which is served at 7:15 a.m. Breakfast and lunch are offered at all Prince George's County Public Schools and at some schools, like Springhill Lake, both meals are offered to students free of charge based on the income levels of their school community.

A School of Walkers

Springhill Lake Elementary Assistant Principal Andrew Karnes estimated 97 percent of the school's students are walkers, though sometimes their parents drive them and drop them off.

The only students who don't walk are the Community Referenced Instruction (CRI) students, says Karnes. According to Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), the CRI program provides instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities who require specialized instruction based on alternate academic achievement standards and assessments in the least restrictive environment. "We're the regional school [for CRI] so they might be coming from Hyattsville or College Park," said Karnes. "And then we have some students that are homeless. They are being brought by buses from wherever they've been displaced to." Asked if they have a large homeless student population, Karnes said it usually ranges between 30 and 40 students.

Next Year's Walk

The fact that almost all Springhill Lake students are walkers was a factor in determining a location nearby within walking distance, for them to go to school while their new building is built in the current location. So, next year the students will be walking in a different direction, to what is currently Dora Kennedy French Immersion school, beside Greenbelt Middle School. That location will be a temporary home for Springhill Lake Elementary, something PGCPS calls a "swing space," for two years. "We're kind of busting at the seams where we are … pretty much every classroom space that we have at our school is filled," said Karnes, who says the school tries to keep class sizes between 15 and 23 students.

The swing space location has more green space, including a field shared with Greenbelt Middle School, and Karnes estimates

See **SCHOOL,** page 14

Crime Down as Police, Leaders Emphasize Prevention, Community

by Stephen Lotz

On October 16 Greenbelt Police Department held a community meeting with residents in the Community Center. A small crowd of residents attended with concerns that ranged from loitering and homelessness to recent fatal gun violence in the city (see the October 9 issue). Police reported that overall crime in the city is down, including major crime, arson, homicide, rape, robbery, kidnapping and aggravated assault.

Major Crime Declines

Crime in Greenbelt has fallen 12 percent this year and more than 30 percent since 2023, Police Chief Richard Bowers told residents during the community meeting. Robberies have dropped 37 percent, carjackings 80 percent and vehicle thefts 20 percent. Only assaults showed a slight uptick of about 6 percent. "We're closing in on pre-Covid crime rates," Bowers said. "We continue to see numbers trend in a good direction."

The decline has freed officers for more proactive patrols, he added. On the other hand, calls for service climbed to roughly 22,000 so far this year, up from 18,000 in 2024, largely because of nearly 8,000 "premise checks" – visits to businesses, parks and other public spaces designed to deter crime.

Investigations, Accountability

Bowers also addressed serious crime. He said two homicides that occurred earlier this month remain active investigations and could not yet be discussed publicly. Responding to questions about accountability, he noted that most defendants are released on personal recognizance under Maryland law, though the department has seen some shifts in detention policies at the state and county levels, particularly within the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Scams

Lt. Irelisse Fernandez urged residents to secure their homes and vehicles and be alert for scams. She described a recent text-message fraud attempt that appeared to come from her own bank and said, "If it feels wrong, just hang up." The city will share scam-prevention resources ahead of an October 28 virtual workshop hosted by the Public Safety Advisory Committee and AARP.

CARES Involvement

Juvenile crime, officials said, continues to involve a small number of repeat offenders, with recent cases centering more on robberies of sneakers and backpacks than vehicle thefts. CARES and its partner programs work with both youth and families to redirect at-risk teens. The city has celebrated eight GED graduates this year, including several referred through CARES (for more on the recent GED graduates see article on page 15).

Unhoused Individuals

Residents also discussed loitering and homelessness around Beltway Plaza bus stops. Bowers said officers regularly check the area and try to connect unhoused people with social service programs but cannot compel anyone to accept help. "You can offer, but you can't force," he said.

Deputy Chief Tim White added that the department's crisis counselor has helped several unhoused individuals obtain identification, enroll in county programs and access shelter. "We're trying one individual, one interaction at a time, to make it better for the community, make it better for that individual and try to figure out a solution long term," he said.

Funding Challenges

City leaders also discussed

See **POLICE,** page 14

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred October 13-19, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one case of abuse of a vulnerable adult; three domestic incidents, one resulting in arrest; and two mental health diversions, one involving suicide.

On October 15 at 10:25 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Greenway Center Drive, officers found a child running on Greenbelt Road and reunited the child with the mother; Child Protective Services was notified.

On October 16 near 9124 Edmonston Court, officers helped detectives from the Prince William County (Virginia) Police Department find a missing girl who was then taken to Cheltenham Juvenile Detention Center.

On October 17 near 550 Crescent Road, a resident reported information about an individual who could be a danger to the community.

Assault

Near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a Verizon cable service employee was assaulted by a resident while trying to gain entry into the building.

On October 13 at 11:19 p.m. near 6460 Capitol Drive, officers responded to a call about a pedestrian struck outside a restaurant and found a man with a small cut on his face. Witnesses explained he had not been struck by a vehicle but was intoxicated and after he was asked to leave started an altercation outside.

Break-in

On October 15 at 5:24 p.m. near 5801 Cherrywood Lane, a woman discovered that her second floor balcony sliding door was open with no visible damage or signs of forced entry. Later, she reported that two pairs of shoes valued at $300 were missing.

Disorderly

On October 16 at 2:55 p.m. near 101 Rosewood Drive, a man and woman each claimed the other had attacked; they were given warrant information.

Fight

On October 18 at 5:06 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two teens decided to fight; officers intervened, and their parents were contacted.

Threats

On October 13 at 7:53 p.m. near 5815 Cherrywood Lane, a man contacted an escort service but had second thoughts after speaking with a female employee. He was later contacted by a male employee who told the victim he wasted his colleague's time and needed to pay. The employee knew his address and the names of family members.

Fraud

On October 14 near 5 Plateau Place, a woman's name was fraudulently used to open an account.

Theft and Shoplifting

On October 13 at 7:41 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, someone stole detergent and was caught and charged; at 11:59 a.m. near 6500 Capitol Drive, a customer stole an iPad belonging to another customer. The iPad was recovered and the customer was charged.

On October 13 at 3:05 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone stole a bike and fled through the emergency exit.

On October 13 at 4:57 p.m. near 121 Centerway, a juvenile stole a bag of chips and fled on foot.

On October 14 at 1:37 p.m. near 9133 Edmonston Terrace, Ring camera footage showed a woman taking a package from another resident's door; she was given a criminal citation.

On October 15 at 4:37 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man known to shoplift was stopped, identified, cited and released.

On October 17 at 2:34 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, someone was caught stealing grocery items and was banned; at 3:06 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a repeat offender tried to shoplift; she was cited, banned and released.

On October 19 at 11:36 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man concealed merchandise in his bag; he was stopped before he exited and left the merchandise.

Trespassing

On October 18 at 9:35 a.m. near 7537 Greenbelt Road, a man was issued a criminal citation for trespassing.

Vandalism

On October 17 near Morrison Drive and Frankfort Drive, a wooden post was damaged.

On October 18 at 1:12 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a woman became upset about an exchange and began destroying items in the store before fleeing in a blue Audi.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on October 14 near 7501 Mandan Road, a 2025 Honda Pilot (Md: 1GS1416); on October 15 near 6003 Springhill Drive, a 2021 Honda Pilot (Md: 7GH0310); and on October 18 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On October 13 at 8:46 a.m. near 8109 Greenbelt Station Parkway, officers recovered a stolen vehicle using a tracking locator.

On October 18, Maryland State Police found a stolen 2014 Honda Civic from near 6115 Breezewood Court crashed and overturned on I-495. A screwdriver was found punched into the ignition.

On October 19 at 9:08 p.m. near 6227 Springhill Court, a witness saw a stolen car driven onto an embankment; two people bailed out.

Attempted Theft of Auto

Three Kias were broken into and had ignition damage: on October 17 near 5803 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2014 Forte, and near 215 Lakeside Drive, a 2015 Forte; and on October 18 near 7737 Greenbrook Drive, a 2018 Optima.

Theft from Auto

On October 14, the wheels were stolen from a 2025 Toyota RAV4 near 9330 Edmonston Road, a 2025 Toyota Camry near 9308 Edmonston Road, and a Honda Civic near 6400 Ivy Lane.

Disability placards were stolen near 5901 Cherrywood Lane on October 14 and near 5813 Cherrywood Lane on October 16.

On October 16 at 1:45 p.m. near 7619 Greenbelt Road, while a woman was refueling her 2021 Honda CR-V, someone opened the front passenger door and stole her purse, then fled.

Vandalism to Auto

On October 13 near 9001 Breezewood Terrace, someone used a sharp object to puncture the gas tank of a Dodge Charger.

Man Cut During Late Night Argument

At 11:26 p.m. on Friday, October 17, officers responded to the 9200 block of Springhill Lane for a stabbing or cutting. A man was cut during a confrontation with someone he knew. Officers provided emergency first aid until an ambulance arrived and he was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

If anyone has information call Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

Damaged Hyundai, Driver Sought in Fatal Hit-and-Run

The U.S. Park Police (USPP) Major Crimes Unit is attempting to identify the vehicle and driver that killed local cyclist Lisa Martin and injured another on October 8 in a fatal hit-and-run on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (see the October 16 issue).

The incident occurred on October 8 at approximately 6:16 p.m. on Soil Conservation Road at Beaver Dam Road. There the driver fatally hit Martin, injured another cyclist and fled the scene.

The vehicle is believed to be a 2009-2014 dark blue Hyundai Genesis and is likely to be missing a passenger-side mirror, have damage to the passenger-side headlight housing and have a damaged front bumper. The tag information on the vehicle is currently unknown.

USPP are hoping to identify the vehicle's license plate and the driver of the vehicle. Anyone with information about the collision, the vehicle or its driver is asked to contact USPP. Call the communications team at 202-610-7500 or the USPP tip line at 202-379-4877. The case number is PP25-134385 and the assigned investigator is Nicholas Rice #612.

PHOTO BY USPP

An example of the car that is sought in the investigation

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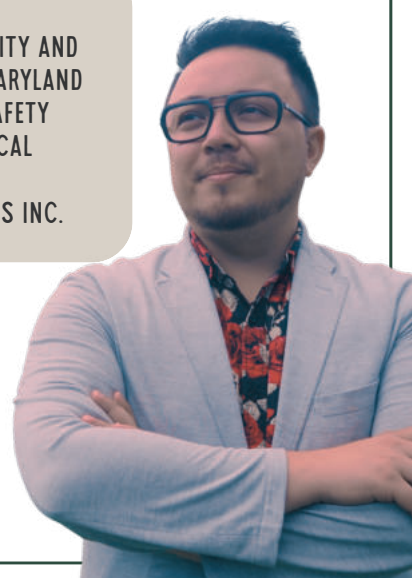

SCHOOL continued from page 12

it's probably 10 times the green space the school has now. Logistically there will be more traffic in that location with the school facing both Edmonston Road and Greenbelt Road, with what Karnes describes as a "high traffic" situation because that is one of the release points from the neighborhood into local thoroughfares.

Community Safety, Violence

The walk with police officers and school administrators this year came shortly after a recent weekend when there had been two fatal shootings in the neighborhood. One victim was a 14-year-old who had attended the middle school and was a first year student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (see the October 9 issue). "I think no matter where your school is located you always have concerns about safety," Karnes told the News Review. Following the weekend's shootings there was a heightened level of anxiety not just among the staff but also the students and families, he said. "When you're outside in public in any location you're always at a risk," said Karnes.

"We definitely want to support the families of the loved ones that died. We're not sure … if they have affected members of our school community but it's always sad to hear of someone losing their life, especially at a young age. I do wish there was some way to be able to find out who in the circle of friends of that young person, might need support. That's just an unknown and we're not going to know until something might bring it to our attention. It's hard for us to anticipate at our school who was affected just based on the privacy and nature of this."

Students walk to school in the rain.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

For that morning at least, the students walked excitedly, despite the darkness and the rain and enjoyed the company of their teachers, administrators and a whole host of Greenbelt police officers.

GHI continued from page 10

the county library system. Salmerón offered the use of the city's storage unit for historical materials as an option.

Information Request

Resident Bob Rand, a member of the city's Reparations Commission, hoped GHI would respond to a letter requesting information on GHI's record of housing for African-Americans. Brodd said the letter was received and would be brought before the BOD.

Story Walk Concerns

Brodd said that there are safety concerns with the metal story walk signage behind the Greenbelt Library especially in regards to children. He expressed worry that GHI might be liable for any injuries. He added that he sees few people actually reading the signs. Salmerón and council said that this is a pilot program which ends in January, at which time their usage can be discussed. For more information about this project, see the January 2, 2025, issue.

Lighting

GHI General Manager James Claggett spoke about GHI's desire for LED lighting on its street poles, offering a financial savings in the long run. Salmerón said that the city is actively looking into a citywide change with Pepco, with a determination needed about what kind of system ownership is preferred by the city. Claggett hoped that GHI could be part of this lighting shift.

Save-As-You-Throw

Brodd said that while there has been a generally positive view of the planned Save-As-You-Throw solid waste removal program, he had concerns that some residents would require a more comprehensive education on the particulars. Council said that information materials are being developed, with Green ACES committed to providing outreach to city residents.

Parking

Derelict and unregistered vehicles on GHI property have been a frustration to GHI members, as they take much-needed parking spaces. Salmerón said that 14 days continues to be the deadline for any parked vehicle and encouraged GHI members to alert Code and Parking Enforcement in case of a problem.

Evictions

GHI member Claudia Jones recounted a story of a recent eviction where neighbors were required to provide sustenance and resources to the evicted person, even after the efforts of the Greenbelt Police Department. Jordan said that safety nets need to be created, as were done during Covid. Brodd said that evictions are rare at GHI, and only done as a last resort after many steps.

Jordan concluded the meeting by saying to GHI that "we are your partners," with the goal being to "facilitate the quality of life" to which all Greenbelt residents aspire.

POLICE continued from page 12

the importance of supporting social services programs that help prevent crime before it happens. Mayor Emmett Jordan said the city has used American Rescue Plan Act funds in recent years to support programs such as CARES, but those federal dollars were temporary. City Manager Josué Salmerón said Greenbelt is working to sustain those services despite limited resources. "It's a priority for us," he said. "But that money runs out. It is running out."

Looking Ahead

The Greenbelt Police Department emphasizes community policing, a model that builds trust and cooperation with the community it serves. About 25 percent of Greenbelt's police officers live in the city. Despite challenges, officials emphasized ongoing outreach and prevention efforts. The police department recently participated in National Walk to School Day and plans a Trunk-or-Treat event on October 24 at Beltway Plaza, a December Shop With a Cop holiday drive and an expanded Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program for fifth-graders at Greenbelt and Springhill Lake Elementary Schools. In closing, Mayor Emmett Jordan thanked the police department "for the good work that [they] do" and praised officers' outreach efforts, saying "those relationships are everything."

Stephen Lotz is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

TEACHER continued from page 1

of the murder and consequently doesn't remember it; his lawyer also said the death could have been an accident. Meanwhile, prosecutors argued Landon's actions and the disposal of her body, some parts of which remain missing, were calculated. Landon also reportedly told family he "let the savage out," during a call from jail.

On Friday, Landon's lawyer, a public defender, filed a notice of intent to appeal. Sylla's adult son, meanwhile, said his mother would never get to enjoy the retirement she had planned, and he still doesn't have closure while parts of her body remain missing.

"Ms. Sylla dedicated her life to shaping young minds and strengthening our county," said State's Attorney Tara H. Jackson, following Landon's sentencing. "Her tragic death underscores the profound and far-reaching consequences of violent acts. Our office remains committed to seeking justice for victims and their families, and to ensuring that the legacy of service exemplified by Ms. Sylla endures. We are grateful to the prosecutors and law enforcement professionals who worked tirelessly on this case, their dedication was instrumental in achieving justice for Ms. Sylla and her loved ones."

The author has two children who attend Dora Kennedy French Immersion School, where Madame Sylla taught.

PHOTO BY REX WINGERTER

Pumpkin pi(e) at the pumpkin carving on October 17

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Greenbelt CARES Celebrates GED Graduation Ceremony

by Lois Rosado

Greenbelt CARES held a GED graduation ceremony on October 17 in the Greenbelt City Council chambers where several graduates spoke of the importance of the education program. The CARES program offers GED preparation classes for adult learners at the Springhill Lake Clubhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

Graduates' Stories

Graduate Margaret Jumbam wanted to become a nurse, but without her GED certification she could not realize that dream. Then an opportunity came with the CARES GED program headed by Community Education and Workforce Coordinator Deji Ayoku. Jumbam had to work full-time to provide for her family, so when she received a notice about the GED program offered online at Springhill Lake, she took advantage of the class. She juggled work and family while completing the GED program. On a video recording shown at the ceremony, she spoke of her struggle with math and thanked Ayoku for his assistance and support in helping her to succeed. She was not the only one to share their challenges and thank Ayoku.

Eric Gardner also spoke via video recording about his problems focusing and attending class regularly. He too struggled with math and in fact many of the graduates spoke about how difficult that subject was and how much Ayoku's extra tutoring helped them. Gardner took the math examination four times and when he finally passed, he received the highest score recorded. He learned that he could push himself to achieve his goals by challenging himself to complete the GED program.

Essance I. Colon had the audience enthralled as she shared the story of her journey, speaking about her mental health challenges and the support she received from Adams Associates, a workforce, skill development and leadership program for adults returning to the workforce, and CARES. Colon wanted to show her family that she could achieve and that they, too, could overcome their challenges. Reaching out for assistance enables one to become stronger, she said. She often had to attend classes with her children present. Through perseverance and determination, she passed all of the GED examinations and is now studying to become a home health aide. Other graduates were Anwar Wilson and Serge Talonfo Talongong, who attended in person, and Diana L. Navarro Quinteros, who was unable to attend.

GED graduate Essance I. Colon, left, poses with program coordinator Deji Ayoku.

GED graduate Serge Talonfo Talongong smiles as he poses with his diploma.

GED graduate Anwar Wilson, left, with Community Education and Workforce Coordinator Deji Ayoku

- Photos by Bryce Rusk

GED Program

The GED program is self-paced and students take examinations at varying times. Some students begin in the fall and complete examinations in January, while others complete them later. The annual graduation ceremony for GED students is held each October and this year celebrated five students.

Ayoku serves as both the instructor and program lead for the GED program, and he consistently does an outstanding job, Greenbelt's Acting Public Information Officer James Wisniewski told the News Review. "It's remarkable to see how youth across Greenbelt engage with and respect him. Witnessing that same respect and admiration from the program's graduates was truly inspiring," said Wisniewski.

At the Ceremony

Mayor Emmett Jordan, Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Jenni Pompi, Kevin "Coach K" Lockhart, City Manager Josué Salmerón, Police Chief Richard Bowers and Dr. Liz Park, director of CARES, were all present to congratulate and celebrate with the graduates and their families. Lockhart knew the graduates and had personally mentored some of them.

From left, City Manager Josué Salmerón, Emmett Jordan, Kevin "Coach K" Lockhart, Kristen Weaver, CARES Director Dr. Liz Park, Essance I. Colon and one of her children, Serge Talonfo Talongong, Anwar Wilson, Deji Ayoku and Jenni Pompi all attend the GED diploma ceremony on Friday, October 17.

Greenbelters Travel

PHOTO BY A KIND TOURIST

On a recent trip to Italy, Louis and Effie Levner visited Murano Island, Venice, where Effie shows off the News Review she brought along.

QUESTION 3 continued from page 11

achieve measurable outcomes.

I bring those same skills to city government to strengthen programs, improve efficiency and ensure resources align with residents' needs. Whether advancing workforce development, expanding food access through Greenbelt Grows or promoting sustainable growth initiatives, I lead with collaboration, fiscal responsibility and inclusion. As the first Black woman to serve on council, I'm committed to ensuring that every voice helps shape Greenbelt's connected, equitable and resilient future.

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

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This Month in Greenbelt History

by Joan Estenson

October 27, 1938,
Greenbelt Cooperator

American Legion Week included a turkey shoot and a dance. Admission to the dance was 25 cents for individuals and 50 cents for couples; three major door prizes would be given away. The first meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary was held just before American Legion Week.

October 26, 1950,
Greenbelt Cooperator

The Board of Directors meeting of Greenbelt Consumer Services focused on trying to interest "our local citizenry" in cooperatives generally and "our cooperative in particular" and how to get them to participate vocally as well as physically in Co-op activities.

The Homemakers Club had a speaker displaying handmade articles suitable for Christmas gift giving. Members also worked on braided rugs.

October 30, 1975
Greenbelt News Review

There was little support for the proposed Greenbelt E Metro Line, with opposition based on it being too disruptive for nearby residential areas and too costly. Attendees suggested ending the Metro at Fort Totten and using the money to improve existing area transportation.

October 26, 2000
Greenbelt News Review

One hundred people attended and 55 correspondents voiced opinions on the proposed acquisition of the Greenbelt Theater by the city. Opposition to the proposal came from those who felt the money should instead be spent to hire more city employees and pay them better. Proponents said the theater attracted visitors to the city (if they could find it) and some visitors became residents.

A letter to the editor complained about drivers not stopping for pedestrians at the intersection of Crescent and Gardenway. The writer complained in particular about a driver who didn't stop at the stop sign, nor to allow her to cross the street, instead veering around her onto the gas station curb and made a right turn toward the Co-op. She suggested having an unmarked police car parked there for a time to see how bad it was and ticketing scofflaws.

October 29, 2015
Greenbelt News Review

A debate before the city council election included 10 of the 11 candidates, with one unable to attend due to illness. Topics included economic development, three Greenbelts and Greenbelt Lake, with FBI headquarters mentioned. Incumbents were J Davis, Konrad Herling, Emmett Jordan, Leta Mach, Silke Pope, Edward Putens and Rodney Roberts. Challengers were George Boyce, William Orleans, Kathleen Shaw and Susan Stewart. [The seven incumbents all won, with Putens nosing out challenger Susan Stewart by four votes.]

Protest at the Overpass

PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

A protester holds a sign reading Veterans Against Facism at the Spellman Overpass.

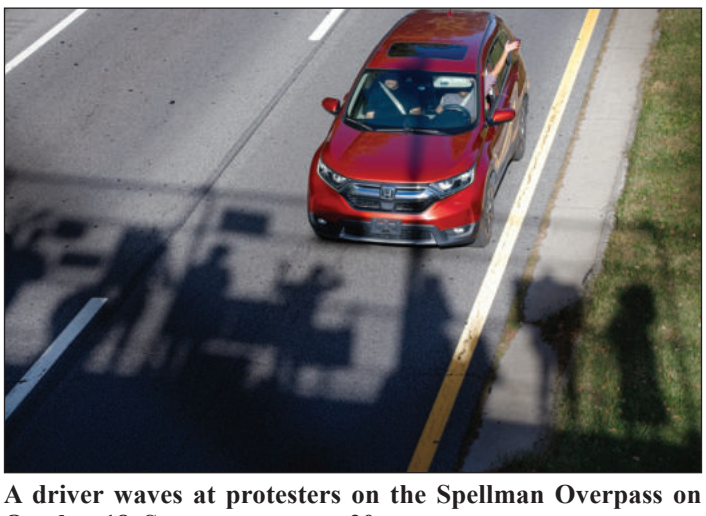

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

A driver waves at protesters on the Spellman Overpass on October 18. See more on page 20.

Medicare Changes in 2026 Will Affect Many in Greenbelt

by Linda S. Lucas

Next year, Greenbelt residents enrolled in traditional Medicare or Medicare Advantage (MA) plans will see their monthly premiums and annual deductibles rise, increasing out-of-pocket costs. Some benefits and access to specific providers, specialty care and preventive services may be pared back or eliminated. For those who depend on regular medical services or have ongoing prescriptions, these changes could have a significant impact on personal finances and access to necessary treatments. Losing continuity of care can be especially disruptive for seniors who rely on regular and consistent health care and pharmacy services for significant health needs.

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for those 65 and older, and younger people with certain disabilities (e.g., end-stage renal disease, certain cancers). It includes Part A (hospital and in-patient care), Part B (outpatient services, including doctor visits and labs), Part C (Medicare Advantage plans) and Part D (prescription drug coverage). There is also optional supplemental (Medigap) coverage that can be bought to defray out-of-pocket expenses such as copays, coinsurance and deductibles that traditional Medicare does not fully cover. Medigap plans are identified by letters such as G, J, and N and are sold by private insurers. Their cost varies, depending on the plan type, the company and one's geographic location.

Greenbelters' Concerns

Greenbelter Sandy Lee Roberts warned everyone on Medicare who would use telehealth for a doctor visit is affected. Another Greenbelt resident, Leslie McLaughlin agreed, saying she was recently denied a telehealth visit as they're no longer covered by Medicare. One Greenbelter, who wished to withhold her name, told the News Review her current Medicare - standard Medicare and a Part D and Part G premium - "just went up and is now taking 25 percent of my Social Security and may be unavailable per recent insurance notices for 2026. Without those policies, my medication costs and copays for my congenital bone disease would bankrupt all of my savings and have me homeless in under a year."

Open Enrollment Underway

The open enrollment period for Medicare is October 15 through December 7, 2025, while those with Medicare Advantage-only plans have until March 31, 2026. According to the Health and Human Services (HHS) website, "These adjustments are part of broader efforts to control healthcare costs and respond to changing medical needs." Those costs are increasing due to the country's aging population and the increasing utilization of Medicare, and impacted, also, by the current political landscape and changes in funding.

According to the American Association of Retired Persons there are 1.1 million Medicare recipients in Maryland, with about 295,000 (under 27 percent) participating in a Medicare Advantage plan. That is one of lowest rates in the U.S., ahead of only North Dakota (25 percent), South Dakota (20 percent), Wyoming (1 percent) and Alaska (2 percent). Most states have at least 50 percent of their Medicare recipients enrolled in MA.

Fewer Choices

According to the newsletter Maryland Matters (marylandmatters.org), "Tens of thousands of retirees could learn that their current health care plan will no longer be available in Maryland this fall, as major insurance providers consider ending their Medicare Advantage plans for next year." MA uses private insurers for health coverage that often provides additional services such as vision, dental and transportation assistance that traditional Medicare doesn't cover.

Under the current system, insurance carriers pay higher hospital rates in Maryland than in other states and get reimbursed by the federal government for MA services at lower rates than elsewhere. As a result, it's more expensive to use MA in Maryland than in other states, and Maryland seniors aren't getting the same quality of benefits, a spokesperson for CareFirst said in a written statement. "We remain concerned that Maryland seniors don't have access to the same affordable, high-quality Medicare Advantage plans available to seniors all across the country, making it difficult for them to afford healthcare at a time when they need it the most." The statement continued, "Maryland seniors deserve access to the same robust, low-cost benefits available to their neighbors in other states." The losses that the MA plans have incurred over the last couple of years have continued to grow. As a result, companies are looking to get out.

Several of the large, publicly traded MA plans, such as Kaiser Permanente, Aetna, Humana, Cigna and United Healthcare are leaving the Maryland marketplace, creating disruption for beneficiaries who must change to a traditional Medicare plan, find new doctors and pharmacies and relinquish supplemental benefits that traditional Medicare fee-for-service doesn't cover.

Higher Costs

For all Medicare beneficiaries, Part B premiums are set to rise in 2026. Plan B premiums will jump 11.6 percent to $206.50 per month, up from $185 a month in 2025. The 2026 Part B annual deductible will be $288, a 12 percent or $31 increase over 2025.

Part D deductibles and spending caps will also increase next year. The limit on out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drug plans will be $2,100 (up from $2,000 in 2025) and the maximum Part D deductible (adjusted each year) will be $615, up from $590 in 2025.

Given these upcoming modifications, it's important that Greenbelters carefully review their coverage options.

Go to the Medicare enrollment page at medicare.gov/plan-compare to review deadlines, plan costs and benefits or call 1-800-MEDICARE 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Consulting with an insurance advisor can also help individuals understand how the changes will affect their out-of-pocket expenses and access to care.

NOTE: At the time of writing, the Medicare website listed above was experiencing difficulties and providing some inaccurate information. A private company has been hired to fix it, with repairs expected "soon." Because of the ongoing government shutdown, telephone wait times have lengthened.

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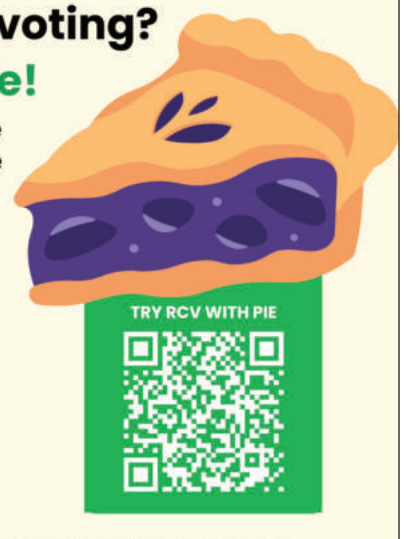

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RANKED CHOICE VOTING MARYLAND

Reel and Meal

Film About Pete Seeger Ends With NDC Crowd in Song

by Kurt Stand

Rooted in the conviction that our shared humanity will overcome the power of hate and greed, Pete Seeger's music provided a glimmer of light during some of the darkest times in our country's history. Today we again need the strength of hope embodied in song; filling that need is likely the reason a capacity crowd attended Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café's monthly film on July 21 for a screening of Pete Seeger: The Power of Song. Not a spare seat was to be found while another 27 people watched via Zoom.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

A sing-along of Pete Seeger's music was enjoyed by attendees at the end of a documentary on the folk song legend at the Monday, July 21, Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café.

The documentary begins with Seeger singing the gospel song and civil rights anthem Climbing Jacob's Ladder. That is followed by Turn, Turn, Turn – a song he wrote using verses from the Book of Ecclesiastes – which had tremendous resonance amongst those horrified by the war in Vietnam. Next came Solidarity Forever, a union song that originated with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), with lyrics put to the tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, which in turn had grown out of John Brown's Body, sung by Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Those songs express spiritual longings as part of the struggle for freedom and democracy. The Power of Song narrates (with wonderful old footage) Seeger's early life, his travels with his father, his initial encounter with country music and, later, the blues. He learned the banjo and developed a participatory style of music that stayed with him always – as anyone who ever attended a Pete Seeger concert discovered. His embrace of our musical traditions in all their diversity and his challenge to oppressive government policies stemmed from a deep patriotism, rooted in love and respect for all people who comprise the United States. It is a patriotism that is global, his music celebrating the equality of all cultures, of all nationalities.

Seeger recognized that music for pleasure, music of love and loss, has value, that "music can help you survive your troubles, can help distract you from your troubles," but then adds that "music can also help you understand your troubles and can help you do something about it."

Putting those beliefs into practice, we see him supporting the labor movement in the 1930s and 40s, performing songs like Union Train a-Coming and Joe Hill at union halls and rallies. In a poignant clip, Seeger sings If I Had a Hammer in a field in Greenwood, Mississippi, during Freedom Summer in 1964, with everyone clapping hands and joining in, notwithstanding the heat, tension and threat of violence in the air. Civil rights songs in the film, such as We Shall Overcome and We Shall Not Be Moved still resonate powerfully.

Always a voice for peace, his music was inseparable from anti-war movements. Where Have All the Flowers Gone and Waist Deep in the Big Muddy fill the screen as does Bring Them Home, which ends, "Support our boys in Vietnam/Bring them home, bring them home."

Seeger had been a member of the Communist Party when young, and though too independent-minded to remain in any organization, he never turned against people with whom he had once marched side-by-side. Seeger was blacklisted for 17 years, his music banned from radio, television and concert halls. In 1955 he was cited for contempt by the House Un-American Activities Committee for refusing to name names. During those years, however, he could perform for children. Children who grew up and spread folk music, stood up to unjust authority. Seeger noted his affinity for kids, and in the film explains, "I prefer to sing in the schools to anywhere else. You can't see all those little faces and say there is no hope."

Power of Song shows him performing with the Almanac Singers and the Weavers and on stage at the Newport Folk Festival. Interviews with singers and activists allow us to understand the breadth of his cultural and political impact, while family members provide a sense of him as a person. We see him chopping wood at age 85 when the film begins and we see him chopping wood as a young man building his home in Beacon, New York. It was a full life, but one impossible without the support and the very real sacrifices made by his wife, Toshi – who was the film's executive producer.

Following Seeger's journey, we see his growing anger at environmental destruction and his resolve to do what he could – he built the sloop Clearwater to act and educate. Looking at faces while listening to Rainbow Race and To My Old Brown Earth indicate that he achieved both. The film closes with him singing Guantanamera and these lines by Cuban poet José Martí: "With the poor people of this earth, I want to share my lot. The little streams of the mountains please me more than the sea."

The film ended, not the program. Instead of the usual post-film discussion, we sang This Little Light of Mine, If I Had a Hammer and This Land is My Land – the final lyrics of which closed the evening:

"Nobody living can ever stop me/As I go walking that freedom highway/Nobody living can ever make me turn back/This land was made for you and me."

Protest Dogs

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Several protesters brought their dogs to the No Kings protest in Greenbelt on October 18. See more from the rally on page 20.

PHOTO BY REX WINGERTER

PHOTO BY REX WINGERTER

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NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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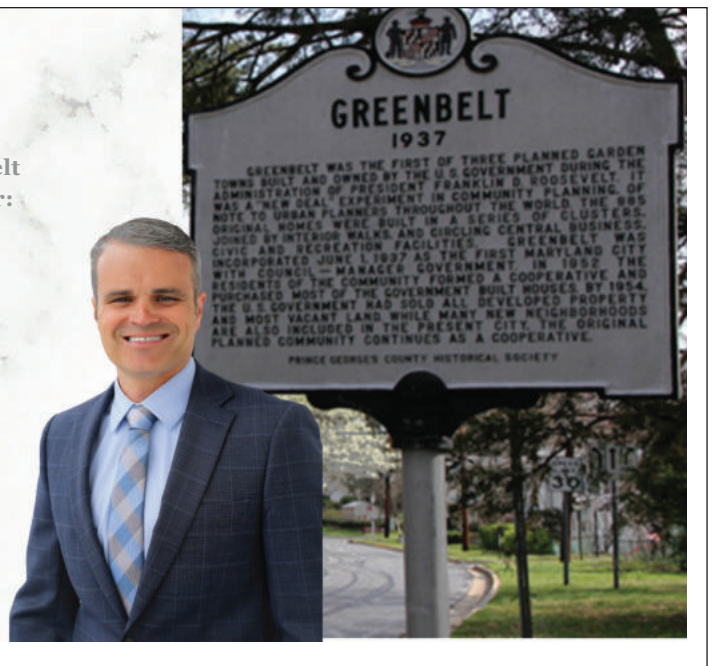

Sports

ERHS Girls Soccer Team Captures County, Hopes for Region Championship Trophy

by Patrick Gleason

The Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders girls soccer team clinched their third county championship trophy in four years on a crisp autumn evening with a 4-0 triumph over the Oxon Hill Clippers. The Raiders secured the win on Monday, October 20, at Potomac High School where they also received their Prince George's County 4A League trophy for ending the regular season with the best in-county record.

The Clippers fought off waves of Roosevelt attacks until senior Autumn Freeman accessed the endline before finding Claudia van der Have for a point-blank finish in the waning moments of the half. Roosevelt continued to wear down their opponent in the second half with goals from Claire Alolga and Freeman, who was assisted with a long ball from center back Greta Wedge. The night's final goal proved to be the most spectacular as left back Emery Gregory cut to her right and ripped a shot from 30 yards out that the Clipper keeper couldn't react to quick enough. The evening ended with the reception of both trophies and a celebration to warm the night's chill. Next, the Raiders turn to the state playoffs, which will commence with a home match against Laurel on Friday, October 24 at 4:30 p.m. With a win the Raiders will advance to a matchup next Tuesday with Montgomery Blair as their likely opponent on a night when they hope to raise a region championship trophy.

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY DIGGS

The 2025 Prince George's County Champion Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders celebrate their third title in four years after a 4-0 victory on Monday, October 20.

PHOTO BY ETHAN JAMES

Ariana Cruz celebrates with Autumn Freeman as Leilah Eggleston looks on for the now County Champion ERHS Girls Soccer team.

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Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share?

We welcome your photos and stories at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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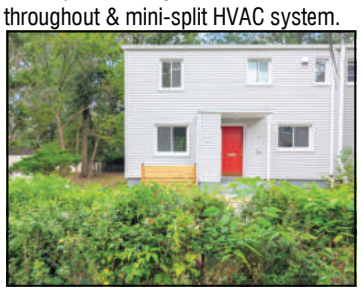
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PROTEST continued from page 1

posted an AI-generated image of Trump wearing a crown, with a caption that included the phrase "Long live the king!" The post is still up and visible.

Greenbelt's No Kings protest was a part of a larger nationwide protest. In June there were about five million people in attendance nationwide, which was the third largest protest in U.S. history, only to be beaten by this October No Kings protest which organizers estimate drew approximately seven million participants in over 2,700 locations. The No Kings protests were planned with help from progressive grassroots groups and other larger organizations, including 50501, Indivisible, the Democratic Socialists of America and the American Civil Liberties Union.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

Protesters line the Spellman Overpass during the No Kings rally on Saturday, October 18.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

The panda leads various chants with a megaphone.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

People of all ages protest at the No Kings rally.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Protesters brought costumes, shirts and signs to the rally.

visit
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Pumpkins Bring Smiles, Magic To Center and Forest Preserve

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The second weekend of the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival saw some 400 pumpkins arrive in Roosevelt Center for a carving on Friday, October 17 from 4 to 8 p.m. Children and adults alike joined the fun to carve pumpkins, which showed off Greenbelt's wealth of creativity and artistry. Volunteers collected the guts of the pumpkins that carvers scooped into buckets for composting.

The growing crowd of carved pumpkin faces placed on a stage made for a beautiful glowing scene at the foot of the Mother and Child statue, as participants milled around the center and the Honk! Situation band played some favorites.

The following morning, the pumpkins were all carefully unloaded by volunteers and placed along a trail in Greenbelt's North Woods, ahead of Saturday evening's pumpkin walk. Each year the pumpkin festival organizers coordinate with the Forest Preserve Advisory Board as they plan the walk.

By 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, the pumpkins were lit and the trail through the woods was magical. A favorite tradition of many, this year's walk in the Forest Preserve drew a large number of visitors. Organizers counted just over 1,600 attendees.

In addition to the pumpkins there were a few forest creatures along the trail – a forest fairy looking out for the woods, a witch with shrunken heads, the legendary Goatman in the shadows. The creatures were held back as the youngest walkers came through, and this visitor, travelling with a four-year-old, escaped unstartled, but heard many screams of others who did not escape so easily.

At the end of the trail, Councilmember Rodney Roberts served his traditional offering of hot cider and cocoa.

On Sunday morning, more volunteers showed up to carefully carry the pumpkins off the trail to Northway where they were picked up by their carvers and taken to homes and porches.

This Friday, October 24, there will be a final carving at the Trunk or Treat event behind Beltway Plaza from 5 to 7 p.m.

PHOTO BY REX WINGERTER

Carved pumpkins glow at the foot of the Mother and Child statue on Friday night.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

Pumpkin carving (and carrying!) at Roosevelt Center

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

Pumpkin Queen Stacy Stewart, organizer of the Festival for the third year running, presides over the carving on Friday, October 17.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

Greenbelters of all ages carve pumpkins and enjoy the atmosphere in Roosevelt Center on Friday evening.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

As dusk falls, the carved pumpkins are placed on stage and lit from within.

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

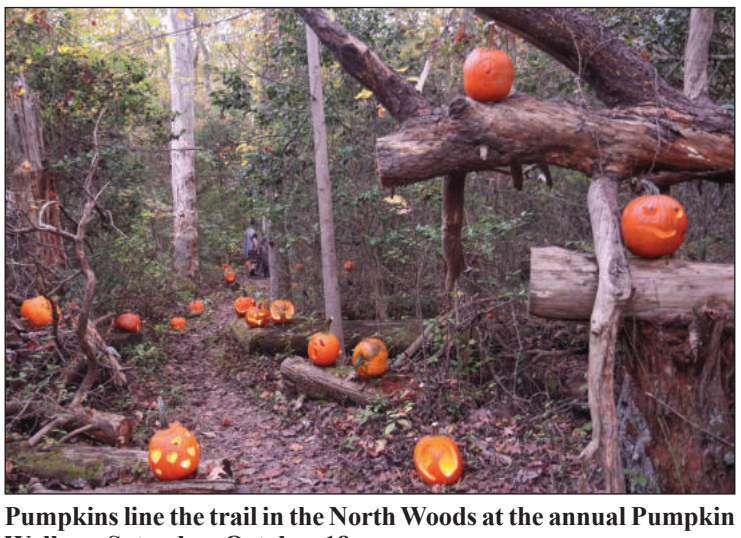

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Pumpkins line the trail in the North Woods at the annual Pumpkin Walk on Saturday, October 18.

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

See more pumpkin photos throughout the paper.